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'$1 a person in NMI could help raise $50K for Samoas' **PAGE 2**

Suspect in Tanapag murder case pleads guilty. **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the local government's plan to issue two-year "umbrella permits" to alien workers with legal status in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of October 21, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Eco Bags

As part of the Green Business Initiative, DEQ is holding another reusable (eco) bag giveaway.

ENVIRONMENT...Page 20

Outdanced

Natalie Coughlin won't be going for the gold on "Dancing with the Stars."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

NMI under state of health emergency

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A couple enters the main entrance to the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan yesterday.

DPH begins work required by governor's declaration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has taken control of the Department of Public Health after declaring a state of health emergency for the CNMI late Tuesday afternoon, paving the way for the hiring of physicians from the Philippines and other countries outside the U.S. and Canada to help address the shortage of specialists on the islands.

"Immediately, the Department of Public Health shall adopt appropriate recruitment strategies to restore an adequate level of medical services to the client population," Fitial said in his one-page declaration of health emergency signed on Oct. 20.

The governor said the Commonwealth "is experiencing an

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Fitial, Hofschneider clash on issues

Almost $1K raised during debate for RP typhoon victims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What began as a cordial face off between Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider turned into a clash of ideas on issues such as federalization, solving Retirement Fund woes, Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, and the guest worker program during a debate Tuesday night that also raised almost $1,000 for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines.

The group that hosted the two-hour debate, the Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities (Cream), has yet to decide whether to endorse either Fitial or Hofschneider, or both, in the Nov. 7

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Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, left, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party, right, shake hands at the conclusion of Tuesday night's "The Great Gubernatorial Debate of 2009" sponsored by the Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bell's only wish: To be buried at sea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Missing 72-year-old swimmer Jim Bell had stated on several occasions that he had no wish other than to be buried at sea.

In fact, Bell had told the Department of Public Safety that he would prefer that they not take the time to search for

See BELL on Page 4

Saipan-based professional photographer Del Benson took this picture of Jim Bell shortly after the 72-year-old swimmer arrived on Saipan after swimming the Tinian channel.

DEL BENSON

Fitial's ex-driver enters guilty plea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The former bodyguard and driver of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who was busted for buying and selling "ice" using the governor's car entered a guilty plea yesterday in federal court.

Peter R. Reyes Jr. pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

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Local

'$1 a person in NMI could help raise $50K for Samoas'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If only every person in the CNMI donates $1, then the community could raise $50,000 in one day to help thousands in American Samoa and Samoa rebuild their lives after the Sept. 29 magnitude 8.3 quake and tsunamis that claimed the lives of 186 children and adults and displaced over 20,000 others.

This is the goal of the CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa, which will hold a radio-thon and live bands and cultural dance performances on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base. The radio-thon will be from 6am to 6pm.

Gary Sword, operations manager of the CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa, called on the community yesterday to take part in Saturday's fundraising by calling 235-HELP (4357) and pledge at least $1.

Those who pledge money could drop by the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday to give the money or to drop off in-kind donations such as clothing and food.

"For those who would pledge over $50, we could pick up the donation from your house or office, or you could drop by the Garapan Fishing Base. We understand that there are a lot of things going on this Saturday but we hope people will pledge at least a dollar each. It will be a day of goodwill for the CNMI, and a picnic and cultural festival not only for the residents but for tourists, too," Sword told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the three radio stations joining the radio-thon are 100.3 KWAW, 101.1 KCNM, and 103.9 KZMI.

Jerome Ierome, chairman of the CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa, said in an open letter to the community, said the devastation has touched every Samoan on the four corners of the earth.

"Everyone has family members or friends who were lost, or knows someone who was lost and definitely has relatives who now have no homes or possessions… Many villages have been totally leveled and destroyed. People have lost all their possessions and only have each other to cling to… There is no doubt that it will get worse as the elders succumb to emotional distress over lost loved ones," he said.

The volunteer group said everything that will be collected and raised from the radio-thon and other donation drives will be given on behalf of the whole CNMI community, and will be distributed equally between American Samoa and Samoa.

"The donation is to benefit the children and education sector," the group said.

To ensure that the funds raised are fully accounted for, the volunteer group will be using Bank of Guam to collect and take custody of all monies collected and subsequently transfer funds to the Samoas.

Sword said the 20 bands and dance groups will perform free of charge on Saturday.

For more information, contact Gary Sword at 989-7673 or Jerome Ierome at 483-4551, or e-mail samoancommunity@gmail.com. More information is available at samoancommunity@gmail.com and www.samoatsunami.com.

PSS: $24.3M stimulus funding for 105 teachers, school renovations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's share in the $28 million the CNMI just received from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund will be used to hire 105 teachers, renovate some schools, and expand some programs, according to a ranking official.

Federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said yesterday that PSS will get a direct injection of $24.3 million, while the rest of the amount will go to the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas College, said.

With the fresh money, Thornburgh said, PSS can now hire replacements and restore 105 teachers and counselors position that were eliminated in the last four years because of budget cuts from the local government.

A portion of the amount will also be used to repair, renovate, and modernize the 20 public schools by replacing leaky roofs, adding energy efficient air conditioning units and lighting fixtures, and making numerous electrical and plumbing upgrades.

PSS will also expand its career and technical education programs at all high schools and will buy 3,203 laptop computers for all high school students. Nearly $1 million will be used to buy these laptop computers.

Some $12 million will be used to modernize, repair, and renovate facilities in all schools that are used primarily for classroom instruction. Of the amount, $4.3 million is for general repair and maintenance, while $2.8 million is being eyed to replace or upgrade air-conditioning units; aircon maintenance; and roof replacement and insulation.

The CNMI stands to receive a total of $44.4 million in total SFSF funds, with $32.3 million going to PSS, $3.9 million allocated to NMC, and $8 million will go to the Office of the Governor. Thornburgh said the balance of the $32.3 million that PSS still expects to get will come this December as soon as PSS submits the second stage of the application.

'$4.1M for school repairs'

In its funding request for the stimulus funds, PSS said the $4.1 million allocated for repairs will be split among all 20 campuses to address decades-old problems in their facilities.

Hopwood Junior High School stands to receive $528,622 for minor and major repairs at its buildings A through E; Marianas High School was appropriated $359,515 so it can repair its buildings A, D, E, M, F, and T; Garapan Elementary will get $285,173 for nine major repairs at its campus.

Other schools are allocated the following amounts:

- San Vicente Elementary, $251,502;
- Koblerville Elementary, $221,079;
- Tanapag Elementary, $218,984;
- Kagman Elementary, $217,960;
- Oleai Elementary, $207,868;
- William S. Reyes, $230,027;
- Saipan Southern High, $195,870
- San Antonio Elementary, $188,236;
- Kagman High School, $180,290;
- Rota High, $190,832;
- Rota Jr. High, $187,600;
- Chacha Oceanview, $163,500;
- Sinapalo Elementary, $138,870;
- Tinian High School, $132,408;
- Tinian Elementary, $117,072; and
- Dandan Elementary, $99,380.

'Thursdays with Tina' tonight

"Thursdays with Tina" will take place tonight at Garapan Central Park, starting at 6pm. This is the third in a series of weekly community gatherings where independent senatorial candidate Christina-Marie "Tina" Sablan will present her platform, answer questions, and listen to concerns.

Next week's gathering will take place at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio on Oct. 29 at 6pm, followed by Nov. 5 at Tanapag Beach. All are welcome!

For more information, contact Sablan at 285-3935, email tinasablan@gmail.com , or visit www.tinasablan.com. ***(PR)***

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Rota: 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. – Teteto

Aguon says Fund has now recouped its FY'08 losses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bullish stock market early this month resulted in substantial gains for the NMI Retirement Fund's overseas investment portfolio.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon told the board of trustees that the Fund's stock performance exceeded the losses incurred last fiscal year.

Aguon reported that the Fund's investment portfolio now stands at $333.8 million, a substantial increase over the $279 million recorded in February 2009 following last year's market contraction.

Aguon said the current market trend has helped the Fund recoup the millions of losses recorded in fiscal year 2008.

"[Because of this] our investment returns have exceeded what we lost last fiscal year because of the positive performance," he told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that they're expecting a gain of an additional 2 percent as of last week, amounting to $6 million.

The Fund incurred $68 million in stock market losses last fiscal year.

However, despite the good turnout, total investment figures remain low because of the Fund's continued withdrawals from its investment Funds, Aguon said.

The Fund withdrew $43 million last fiscal year from its investment monies to pay for the pension benefits of members. It was forced to do this due to the central government's failure to remit employer contributions for many years, with arrears now amounting to over $231 million plus interest.

"If we're not withdrawing the money from our investments, we would have over $380 million on record," board trustee Pedro Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fund's assets plummeted from over $500 million in 2007 to approximately $300 million this year due to the tandem of the 2008 worldwide investment market decline and investment drawdowns for pension payments.

Dela Cruz believes that expenses incurred in the litigation of cases involving the Fund are also sapping the agency's funds.

"We're putting a lot of time, effort, and expenses to these cases…and this could have been used to other purposes," he said.

A lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court last week against the Fund's investment consultant and the board of trustees for alleged dereliction of their fiduciary responsibilities.

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FITIAL

From Page 1

gubernatorial elections.

Cream invited only Fitial and Hofschneider to the debate after the two got the most number of votes in a mock election held by the group early this month.

The two other gubernatorial candidates are Independent Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Democratic Party's Ramon "Kumoi" Deleon Guerrero.

"These two are the top picks. What's more important now is that they value the minorities in the CNMI. Their presence at the debate is a first step," Cream president Augustus Loste told *Saipan Tribune* right after the debate held in the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Cream's "The Great Gubernatorial Debate of 2009" drew a crowd that included minorities or nonresidents, and supporters and members of the Covenant Party and the Republican Party.

On several questions, the candidates did not rebut each other's responses but used the opportunity to add more or clarify their answers. They both espoused giving priority to education, with Hofschneider pointing to the need to pay teachers better and Fitial on giving more local and federal stimulus money to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

Article 12

Fitial said he'd rather use Article 11 rather than Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution which he said is "controversial," to help improve the economy, adding that "Northern Marianas descents are the rightful owners of lands in the CNMI."

Hofschneider said he thinks Article 12 "is not controversial" and that its relevance should be weighed now for the CNMI's economic future.

Hofschneider said failure to follow the law by not remitting the proper amount to the Retirement Fund "is a breakdown of leadership" but Fitial said the Fund had been "broken" long before he became governor. He said his Defined Contribution Plan reduced by over $120 million the actuarial accrued liability in the first year alone.

Fitial said he "totally supports" the lawsuit filed by some retirees against the NMI Retirement Fund's investor advisor Merrill Lynch for giving bad investment advice, while Hofschneider said trustees should have the professional and educational qualification to sit on the Fund board and not only because they are supporters of the sitting governor.

Hofschneider said not cooperating with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is not in the best interest of the CNMI, adding that allowing a police officer to earn $13,000 a year for 13 years or more is unacceptable, and hurts the morale of enforcement officers.

Fitial said his administration has beefed up enforcement and announced that he's now considering putting back local enforcement officers to the joint DEA Task Force because he said the agent-in-charge on Guam will be replaced soon.

Secure borders

Hofschneider said federalization not only secures CNMI borders but will also lead to better processing of labor papers. He said because of "belligerent behavior," the CNMI has lost credibility with the federal government.

"Our credibility is at its lowest ever," he said on the question on what they think are positive things about federalization.

Fitial, who sued the federal government over takeover of CNMI immigration, said he has nothing good to say about federalization which he said has been causing uncertainty among guest workers and the CNMI economy. He cited the lack of proposed rules on the guest worker program barely a month before the Nov. 28 effective date of federalization.

Later on, he said there's "one good thing about federalization."

"Somebody got a job in U.S. Congress," Fitial said, referring to the CNMI's first elected non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Fitial announced declaring a state of health emergency for the CNMI to "reform the hospital," but Hofschneider disagrees with the declaration, adding that the signing into law of a hospital corporation bill could have addressed many DPH problems.

Both support privatization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. but they blamed each other and politics for blocking efforts to privatize CUC.

Hofschneider said he will never tell foreign workers and others who have made the CNMI their home "to go home" and pointed to a bill he co-sponsored with Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) to provide more stable status for nonresident workers.

Fitial said the CNMI needs and will continue to need guest workers, and pointed to helping some 300 former stateless children obtain U.S. citizenship. "I like to make it very clear that I am not anti-foreigner," he added.

In the end, Fitial talked about proven leadership in the midst of tough economic times, while Hofschneider talked about "change."

Audience reactions to the responses were mixed and others favored one candidate over the other. Others said that, while Fitial sometimes appeals to emotions, Hofschneider gave motherhood statements.

Sam McPhetres, a historian and teacher at Northern Marianas College, served as the debate moderator. Ed Propst introduced Hofschneider, while Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos's legal counsel, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, introduced Fitial.

ERRATUM

In the Oct. 20 article titled "Foundation awards 10 scholarships, the accompanying picture's caption incorrectly identified Jerry Tan as the Tan Siu Lin Foundation chair. Jerry Tan is the president of Tan Holdings. Our apologies.

EX-DRIVER

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted his plea and set the sentencing for Jan. 27, 2010, at 9am.

Wiseman allowed Reyes to remain at liberty under the same bail conditions that the court previously imposed.

Reyes was arrested last month for allegedly selling 0.12 grams of "ice" to a Drug Enforcement Administration "confidential source" in the parking lot of the governor's office on Capital Hill on March 16, 2009.

The U.S. government originally charged Reyes with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute. The U.S. government later filed a superseding information charging Reyes with one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Under the plea agreement, the sentencing guidelines range is six to 12 months in prison, and a fine range of $2,000 to $20,000.

This was not Reyes' first brush with a drugs-related issue.

In 2001, the Commonwealth Ports Authority let Reyes go after he tested positive for use of controlled substances. He was allowed to resign in lieu of outright termination.

In February 2006, he was required to take a pre-employment drug test as a condition for his employment with the Department of Public Safety as the governor's bodyguard and chauffeur. DPS assigned a firearm to Reyes and provided him training in firearms handling and safety.

Sometime between February 2006 and late August 2006, the CNMI Office of the Personnel Management notified Reyes that the results of his pre-employment drug test were "confusing."

To Reyes' knowledge, he was not subjected to another drug test.

In late August 2006, then DPS Commissioner Rebecca Warfield signed a letter terminating Reyes's employment with the department. Reyes never received the termination letter. He was not, in fact, terminated but remained employed with DPS.

BELL

From Page 1

him at all if he fails to show up after one of his swims.

"Jim Bell loved to swim. He was happy when he was swimming. He knew that he might lose his life swimming and he was okay with that," said Terri Clawson, a former Tinian resident.

Bell took off into the waters near Suicide Cliff on Tinian between 11am to 12pm on Saturday. His goal was to swim around the corner of the island and surface at Kammer Beach later that day at 4pm.

Bell did not show up, prompting authorities to conduct a massive sea and land search. On Tuesday, the last day of search ended with no Bell sighting.

Tinian's Boating Safety Unit, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Emergency Management Office continued their operation yesterday, but changed it to search and recovery. Tinian responders ended the operation at 4:45pm.

Clawson told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she first met Bell in July 2008 prior to his first swim from Tinian to Saipan.

As she remembers it, Clawson said Bell was looking for the best place on Tinian to strike out for his swim to Saipan so her husband Kevan offered him a ride to Lam Lam Beach and took pictures as he left the shore.

"That was his plan…get to the beach, get in the water, and swim to Saipan. We thought he was crazy, but then we didn't know Jim," she said.

Over the next few months, Bell swam around Saipan both inside and outside the reef. He completed that task on Sept. 20, 2008, after which he moved to Tinian to swim around it as well. Clawson said Bell didn't arrive on the island by ferry or plane as he swam to Tinian for 27 hours.

"Jim Bell loved the ocean. There are people who take risks and feel alive when they do so," Clawson said.

She said Jim knew the risk he was taking every time he went swimming. "Jim never felt open-ocean swimming was an undue risk, but he was always prepared to accept whatever way his swim ended."

Still, she felt horrified when the U.S. Coast Guard was called to search for him this weekend. Clawson said Bell was a member of their Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregation on Tinian and considered him a good friend.

During church meetings, Clawson said, their friend would pull out a map of Tinian and talk about where he went swimming over the week and where he was planning to swim the next week.

Church members would plead with him to have a boat meet him whenever he was taking a long or particularly hazardous swim, where there were only cliffs in areas where he was going to go ashore.

"He always told me, 'That won't count. I have to do it on my own. I get into the water, swim, and get out of the water on my own,'" Clawson said.

She remembered that Bell went swimming on Sept. 13, 2009, the day before she and Kevan left Tinian. The Clawsons made arrangements to meet for breakfast on the 14th in order to say their final goodbyes. He did not arrive at the agreed-upon time, prompting Kevan to look for him.

"We found him at home, having just arrived from sleeping on the cliffs! He had been swimming the day before and had taken more time to climb the cliffs than he thought it would. Since it was too dark to continue to climb, he laid down on the cliffs and slept there," Clawson said.

"He regaled us with the stories of bugs, birds, and creatures," she added.

Clawson said they laughed when Bell told them how happy he was when it started to rain because he could get some water just by opening his mouth.

"He was wet, cold, and tired, but he had done it on his own…the way he wanted to do it," she said.

NMI

From Page 1

increasing rate of deaths among community members that can be attributed to lack of health care."

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, who is now back from months of medical leave, met with key DPH personnel yesterday afternoon "to discuss and begin work required by the declaration," DPH chief financial officer Esther Muna told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Muna served as acting health secretary for days when other DPH officials designated as acting health secretaries, including Pete Untalan, went off island—also for medical reasons—or went back to their original job at the department. Muna also led DPH personnel who testified at the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee oversight hearing on Capital Hill last week.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the emergency declaration is valid for 30 days.

"The governor will have all powers available to him under the Constitution for such emergency declarations," he said.

As of yesterday, neither the Fitial administration nor DPH could provide details on the number and types of doctors that needed to be hired, the countries where they will be hired from, the salary levels, the start of the hiring process, whether it would involve direct hiring or the use of manpower agencies, and reprogramming of funds, among other things.

"The governor supports the temporary recruitment or use of qualified and proficient foreign doctors, preferably with U.S. training," Reyes said.

He added that the details will be addressed shortly.

The Fitial administration had said that it would be less costly to hire specialists from outside the CNMI than to send patients to off-island medical facilities such as Guam, Hawaii, the Philippines and the U.S. mainland.

Medical referral costs reached $7.4 million in Fiscal Year 2009, a 17-percent increase over FY 2008's $6.3 million, even as appropriations totaled only $5,000.

The $7.4 million includes the actual costs of treatment and other medical care, as well as expenses related to transporting and accommodating patients and their family and medical escorts to health care facilities in Guam, the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

Currently, DPH is restricted from hiring doctors that are not from the U.S. mainland or Canada due to the CNMI Medical Profession Licensing Board regulations. The CNMI also cannot hire doctors from foreign countries due to the standards and requirements mandated by the federal government. The Commonwealth Health Center, which receives Medicare and Medicaid funding, is required to hire U.S.-trained doctors.

CHC, the only hospital in the CNMI, is one of the component units of DPH.

However, the CNMI has been sending hundreds of patients to the Philippines every year for medical referrals.

Fitial directed the Medical Profession Licensing Board "to review and revise regulations so that expanded medical services may be provided to the client population of the Commonwealth" within 15 days of the declaration.

The governor also directed DPH to submit within 10 days of the declaration a written plan to move the CNMI from its present "medical emergency" status to an acceptable level of care.

In an earlier interview, Fitial specifically said that doctors, including those who are U.S.-trained or certified, will be hired from the Philippines. He said they would include cardiologists and nephrologists or kidney doctors. The controversy-plagued $22 million dialysis center also could not open due to a lot of problems that include the lack of kidney doctors.

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee, earlier said he supports the health emergency declaration. He is expected to issue a comment today.

DPH has an arrangement with a U.S.-based headhunting firm for $25,000 per doctor hired from the U.S. and Canada. Fitial had said that the CNMI will hire foreign doctors "based on necessity."

Number of PSS HQTs increase by 2 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The number of highly qualified teachers in the Public School System went up by 2 percent this school year, rising from 69 percent to 71 percent.

PSS currently employs a total of 556 classroom teachers. Of the number, 392 have complied with the HQT requirements set by the Board of Education.

In order to be considered an HQT teacher, a classroom teacher must have a degree, valid teaching certificates, and must have passed the Praxis tests.

The percentage of HQT personnel in classrooms, PSS said, would have been even higher if not for the departure of 20 highly qualified teachers last year.

Classroom teachers who have yet to reach the HQT level, meanwhile, total 164 and PSS said they will serve as teacher assistants or teacher aides.

PSS said these teachers will only become classroom teachers once they comply with all HQT requirements.

PSS has until July 2011 to meet the federal mandate of filling all its classrooms with HQT personnel.

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers earlier pushed for an amendment to the HQT policy, saying the requirements are among the "highest" in the region.

However, the board insists on keeping the policy, saying it continues to assist those who have yet to comply with the requirements.

To encourage teachers to become HQTs, the board adopted a new compensation plan that provides attractive salary increments to those who qualify and a salary reduction for those who fail to meet the standards.

This concern has raised strong opposition from longtime teachers and colleagues who have been affected by the policy.

Based on the compensation plan, a highly qualified teacher can receive maximum of $47,000 annual pay provided they have the master's degree, certifications, and other credentials. A classroom teacher who has yet to take or pass both Praxis tests receives a starting salary of $28,000 from the system.

Suspect in Tanapag murder case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ezra Kaainoa Deleon Guerrero, the suspect in the killing of a Korean businessman during a robbery inside a store in Tanapag last May, entered a guilty plea yesterday in the Superior Court.

The 25-year-old Deleon Guerrero signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree.

Associate Judge Perry Inos accepted the plea agreement and Deleon Guerrero's guilty plea.

Inos set the sentencing for Jan. 20, 2010 at 1:30pm. He directed the Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence report on Dec. 21, 2009.

Inos placed the defendant back in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Murder in the first degree carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison.

In an interview after the hearing, prosecutor Brian Gallagher said the charges carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Under the plea agreement, though, the sentencing range is a minimum of 25 years in prison or a maximum of 30 years, Gallagher said.

"He has the right to argue for a 25-year sentence," he said.

Gallagher said under the agreement, the defendant will be required to pay restitution to the victim.

The government charged Deleon Guerrero with two counts of murder in the first degree, one count of murder in the second degree, one count of robbery, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Deleon Guerrero and his lawyer, assistant public defender Mike Brown, signed a plea agreement. By pleading guilty to a first degree murder charge, the prosecution agreed to move to dismiss the remaining charges.

Jae Soung Shim, 65, also known in the neighborhood as Papa-sang, was killed inside New Star Market, on May 17, 2009.

Police said Shim was reading something behind the cashier's counter when Deleon Guerrero entered the store and repeatedly struck him on the head with a *tangan-tangan* stick.

Autopsy showed that the businessman sustained multiple skull fractures, due to repeated blows to the head.

After a few days, police arrested Deleon Guerrero.

A detective stated in his report that prior to the attack, a witness saw Deleon Guerrero put on a black ski mask and say: "This is good for Papa-sang, no!"

Deleon Guerrero was later seen handing out bills to children at a house near New Star Market. A witness heard the defendant bragging he had just knocked out the victim.

To All Koror Voters:
Campaign Rally for
Mr. Allen Seid
at CAROLINIAN UTT
on Sunday, October 25, 2009
from 6:00pm - 10:00pm
For more information please call 233-0486

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 1547, ROTA, MP 96951
PHONE: 1.670.532.7242
EMAIL: rotacommission@gmail.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2009.

DATE: Friday, 23 October 2009
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
- RCGC Funding

VII. New Business
- Draft Temporary Casino License Application

VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ DIEGO M. SONGAO 19, October 2009
Chairman

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Chamber weighs potential impact of 'umbrella permits'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Jim Arenovski, disclosed yesterday that the group is currently evaluating the potential impact on both employees and employers of the two-year umbrella permits that will be issued by the local Labor Department.

Arenovski also said the group did not participate in crafting the measure. In fact, he said, the Chamber just recently received materials related to the umbrella permit program.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce just recently received materials related to the two-year 'umbrella' permit program and we are in the process of evaluating the potential impact of the permit on both employees and employers," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the Chamber had gotten some inquiries from those who thought it participated in the creation of the program.

"While we were made aware in advance that such a permit might be forthcoming, we did not participate in the drafting of any materials, nor did we substantively comment on the proposed program," he said.

He disclosed, though, that the Office of the Attorney General invited the group yesterday to help review the program.

"We were invited [today] by the attorney general's office to participate in reviewing the permit program and its effect on the various categories of current CNMI permit holders," he said.

Once the Chamber has had the opportunity to review and comprehend the program, it will issue an official comment.

Arenovski, in his personal capacity, thinks that vetting the "umbrella" provisions and their effects will take some time.

In his conversations with many people, he said it is obvious that there are "muddy areas with no clear definitive answers."

The Labor Department will start issuing the umbrella permits on Monday.

In a statement during last week's news briefing, Labor officials said the umbrella permit will help stabilize the workforce and protect employers and employees as well as prevent undue harm to the economy.

"The permit is an authorization to work in the Commonwealth, so long as Labor requirements are complied with," the statement said.

The process will not affect existing permits and the contracts, health certificates, and other qualifications on which those permits are based will remain in effect.

Palau, US at odds on Compact extension deal

By JONATHAN KAMINSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KOROR, Palau (AP)—Palau and Washington are at loggerheads about extending U.S. economic assistance to the tiny Pacific nation past 2010, officials say.

Under a so-called Compact of Free Association signed when Palau gained independence in 1994, the island country has received more than $852 million from Washington, making it one of the largest per capita recipients of U.S. aid.

Direct U.S. assistance was supposed to stop this year, leaving Palau to rely on a separate trust fund set up by the Americans.

But the fund has underperformed, and both sides agree that more direct aid is needed. They disagree over how much.

Palau has asked for what amounts to $15 million per year in cash over the next 15 years.

Washington is offering a package closer to $10 million per year over and access to federal grants and programs estimated to be worth at least $350 million, according to a letter this month from State Department official Alcy Frelick to President Johnson Toribiong. A copy of the letter was seen by The Associated Press.

Chief Palauan negotiator Joshua Koshiba wrote last week to tell Frelick that the U.S. offer "would cause excessive economic hardship for the people of Palau."

It would force Palau to cut its national budget by 26.4 percent, reduce per-capita income by almost a quarter over six years, and force young Palauans to flee a stagnant economy for opportunities abroad, Koshiba wrote.

U.S. officials were unmoved.

"We feel the offer we've made is fair. It's generous and it's appropriate to the situation in Palau," said Michael Bradecamp, the top American official stationed in Palau.

The two sides met Monday for what was supposed to be the final time in what is formally a 15-year review of the compact. No deal was reached, and the Palauans have sought more negotiations.

Bradecamp said a deal needs to reached by December to give Congress time to approve it without delaying payments to Palau.

Palau this year offered to resettle more than a dozen Guantanamo detainees in a deal that relieved pressure on U.S. President Barack Obama's administration to close the military camp in Cuba. Palauan and U.S. officials have said the detainees offer has no bearing on the compact negotiations.

Suspect in biggest 'ice' haul pleads guilty

One of four persons who allegedly sold and yielded over a kilo of methamphetamine or "ice" worth about $510,000 entered a guilty plea yesterday in federal court.

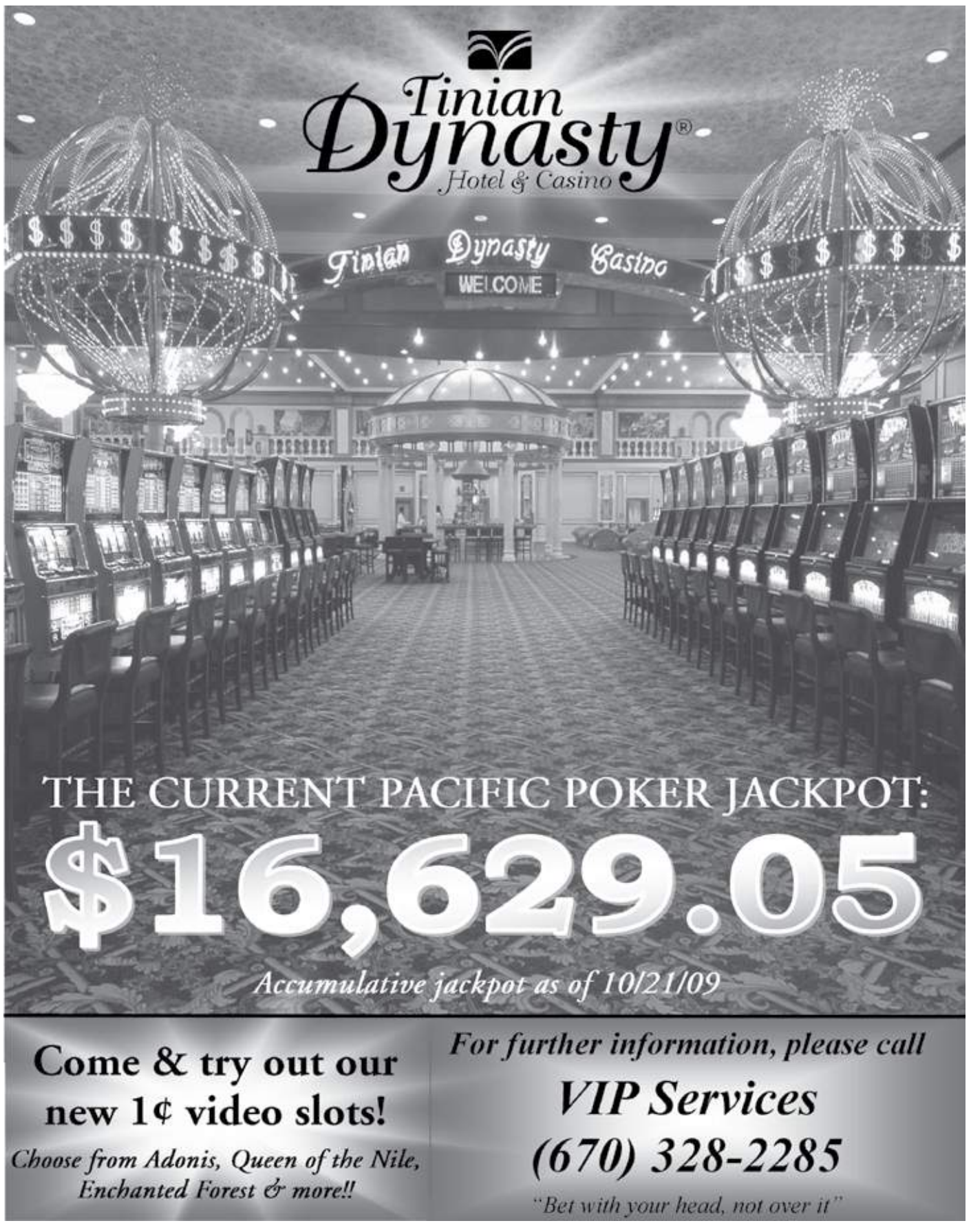
Sheng Lian signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government, pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute "ice" and possession of a controlled substance.

Both charges carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a mandatory sentence of 10 years, a $4 million fine, and six years of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted the plea and set the sentencing for Jan. 27, 2010.

According to the plea agreement, from Oct. 23, 2008 through Aug. 17, 2009, Lian conspired with Biao Huang and others to distribute "ice."

The other co-defendants are Chun Mei Li, and Ya Bin Huang. A total of 947 grams worth $473,000 was reportedly seized from Huang and Lian during a buy-bust operation inside a room in a hotel. For the entire operation, a total of 1,021.4 grams was seized—the biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI so far. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes. None
   5. Communications
B. Public Comments
C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide
   1. Application for Conditional Use Permit #2009-2672, ECO Oil Company, Ltd.
D. Old Business. None
E. New Business.
   1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
G. Miscellaneous
   1. Other Matters
   2. Announcements
   3. Next Meeting
H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Baccarat Tournament Champion

October 17-18, 2009 at Tinian Dynasty

Total participants–108 (Japanese, Korean and other nationals)

Mr. Hideo Saito, a customer of Mr. Masahiro Watanabe, won the Baccarat Tournament that was held on October 17 & 18 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Mr. Saito expressed great joy and appreciation to Mr. Watanabe for inviting him to this special event on Tinian. Mr. Saito said he would like to spend his cash prize here in the CNMI and continue shopping and dining in various restaurants to help the economy.

Winner: **Mr. Hideo Saito** (Japanese, 32 yrs. old.)
Prize: **$70.000**

Masahiro Watanabe
President,
Rota Treasure Island Corporation

Mr. Watanabe, the President of the Rota Treasure Island Corporation, intends to hold a similar Baccarat tournament on Rota once the new casino has been established. His main focus is to build and improve the casino and tourist industry within the CNMI and he is happy to cooperate with Tinian Dynasty.

Mr. Watanabe is confident that he has many potential customers in Japan. In a past tournament, he brought over 600 players from Japan. He will do his best to contribute to the Rota and CNMI economy in the near future. He is very happy to have the cooperation of the local community, therefore once he starts his casino business on Rota, he would like to hire as many local employees as possible.

He hopes that Rota will become one of the "Dream Destinations" of the Japanese tourist market in the very near future.

Rota Treasure Island Corporation

Navy eyes sonar operations in Marianas

NOAA's Fisheries Service is seeking comments now through Nov. 19 on its proposed rule to authorize impacts to marine mammals during Navy training exercises around the Mariana Islands. The NOAA proposal includes protective measures designed to minimize effects on marine mammals.

The Navy has requested an authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, because the mid-frequency sound generated by tactical sonar, and the sound and pressure generated by detonating explosives, may affect the behavior of some marine mammals, or cause a temporary loss of their hearing sensitivity.

NOAA's Fisheries Service does not expect the exercises to result in serious injury or death to marine mammals, and is proposing the Navy use mitigation measures to avoid injury or death. However, exposure to sonar in certain circumstances has been associated with the stranding of some marine mammals, and some injury or death may still occur. Therefore, the proposed authorization allows for a small number of incidental injuries to marine mammals.

NOAA's Fisheries Service said it has made a preliminary determination that these effects "would have a negligible effect" on the species or stocks involved.

Under the authorization, the Navy would have to follow mitigation measures to minimize effects on marine mammals, including:

- establishing marine mammal safety zones around each vessel using sonar;
- using Navy observers to shut down sonar operations if marine mammals are seen within designated safety zones;
- using exclusion zones to ensure that explosives are not detonated when animals are detected within a certain distance;
- implementing a stranding response plan that includes a training shutdown provision in certain circumstances, and allows for the Navy to contribute in-kind services to NOAA's Fisheries Service if the agency has to conduct a stranding response and investigation.

"These measures should minimize the potential for injury or death, and significantly reduce the number of marine mammals exposed to levels of sound likely to cause temporary loss of hearing," NOAA said in a statement.

Additionally, the proposed rule would require the Navy and NOAA's Fisheries Service to meet yearly to discuss new science, Navy research and development, and Navy monitoring results to see if changes to mitigation or monitoring measures are needed.

NOAA's Fisheries Service and the Navy use independent, experienced vessel-based marine mammal observers (as well as Navy watchstanders), and passive acoustic monitoring to help better understand how marine mammals respond to various levels of sound and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

The Navy has been conducting training exercises, including the use of mid-frequency sonar, in the Mariana Islands for more than 60 years. Exercises range from large, 10-day long joint multi-strike group exercises using multiple surface vessels, submarines and aircraft, to multi-hour exercises designed to target specific skills or weapons systems, such as missile tracking. Some exercises involve explosives.

NOAA's Fisheries Service will accept comments on the application and proposed authorization through November 19. Comments should be addressed to:

Michael Payne, Chief of the Permits, Conservation, and Education Division

Office of Protected Resources, NMFS

1315 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Electronic public comments may be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal http://www.regulations.gov using the identifier 0648-AW91. ***(NOAA)***

ON THE NET

NOAA's Fisheries Service:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov
http://www.noaa.gov

Docomo renews service trade agreement with the Red Cross

Docomo Pacific has renewed its service trade agreement with the Northern Marianas Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In a statement, Docomo Pacific said this agreement signifies its continued support for the hard work and sacrifice of the staff, management and volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

"In these harsh economic times, it becomes very difficult to raise the much needed funds for non-profit organizations like the American Red Cross. Yet in times of need, it is the American Red Cross that is always there first for the community. Docomo Pacific's contribution is the least we can do to assist in the important mission of the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter," said Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson.

The service trade agreement consists of the use of Blackberry handset with unlimited airtime, text and data service, a Palm Treo handset, and free airtime and text messaging for four additional cellular units.

Docomo Pacific has been a leading wireless communications provider on the islands since 1992. It was the first to introduce wireless data, content, ring tones and picture messaging services through its FX and Brew services. Docomo Pacific has earned a reputation for providing superior coverage and typhoon proven reliability. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-009

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MARINE ECOLOGIST TO MANAGE THE CORAL REEF AND MARINE AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ** AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-010

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"PROJECT MANAGERS TO MANAGE THE LAOLAO BAY RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-011

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **NOVEMBER 02, 2009 AT 9:30 A.M.,** AT THE DEQ MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR GUALO RAI CENTER, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, October 23, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the 2nd Floor, Bank of Guam Building Conference Room; Tinian, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I **PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II **CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - Status Updates
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - IPS Review & Approval
  - Flash Reports – SEPT 2009
- Legal Counsel Reports
  - APLE 501
  - Assigned Legal Matters
  - NMHC Home Foreclosure Actions (Initial Report)
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – August 2009

III **OLD BUSINESS**
- GF Distribution Status Updates re: P.L. 10-29 Amendment
- Rota Gaming Commission Loan Request
- Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan Loan Request
- IBPC Loan Request - Updated
- Administrative Manual – Personnel Benefits

IV **NEW BUSINESS**
- HB 16-280
- Independent Contract Review – International Management Limited

V **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VI **MISCELLANEOUS**

VII **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct 22, 1999

Aranza: No more political campaign

Office of Insular Affairs Director Danny Aranza yesterday ended a two-day visit to the CNMI, acknowledging the "uphill battle" facing his efforts to restore ties with island leaders amid the ongoing congressional probe into the conduct of some of its officials. He said, however, he would welcome sanctions from Congress or any investigating panel against any OIA officials found guilty of alleged on-the-job political campaign that used CNMI issues as weapon against the island's Republican supporters in Washington. "Let the chips fall where they may," Aranza said at a news conference hours before his departure for Guam. "We don't condone wrongdoing and if (it) is proven, clearly the consequence will have to be paid and that will be appropriate."

Ingram backs jail officials

Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram yesterday dismissed charges of incompetence leveled by inmates against officials of the Division of Corrections, saying they were qualified to run the prison. Two petitions have been circulated seeking the ouster or transfer of DOC Director Greg T. Castro, Assistant Chief Juan Ayuyu and Capt. Johannes Ngiraibuuch whom the prisoners said were unfit for the job. "I will not allow the inmates to dictate to me as to who we are going to hire to run the place. If I will let the prisoners dictate to me how I'm going to run the prison, then we might as well get rid of the corrections staff," said Ingram.

Oct. 22, 2001

Deadline for absentee voters extended

With 15 days left before the general election, the House of Representatives acted swiftly in passing a bill that would extend the period for receiving absentee votes from seven days to 14 days. House Bill 12-421 now goes to the upper chamber, where Senate President Paul A. Manglona also promised swift action on the measure so it would be passed into law before the November 3 elections. Earlier reports had it that Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has already expressed willingness to sign the measure into law. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial instructed House Clerk Evelyn Fleming to expedite the transmittal of the measure to the Senate so it could be acted upon at once.

Lizama wins case, gets $1.9M

A CNMI Superior Court has awarded $1.9 million in damages to Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama, after ruling in his favor in connection with a vehicular accident he figured in sometime in 1988. Guam magistrate Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. made the judgment Friday, while sitting as pro-tempore judge for the Superior Court. The court ordered defendants William Kintz and Marianas Rental Corp., which is also known as National Rent-A-Car, to pay Lizama $200,000 and $500,000 for economic and non-economic damages.

Oct. 22, 2002

NMI eyes 'non-risk' list

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has ordered the Department of Labor and Immigration to come up with a CNMI list of approved countries, following the controversial entry to Saipan of 39 nonresident workers from Egypt. The Governor, in an interview yesterday, said that having "our own approved list" would solve some confusion regarding the acceptance of foreign nationals. Babauta said it is all about the safety and security of the CNMI. "All I'm concerned about is the safety of the CNMI. I don't want the CNMI to be perceived as not safe, especially among the tourists and potential investors," he said.

Crackdown on tax evaders proposed

The backgrounds of local businesses should be checked to verify unpaid taxes before the Tax and Revenue division issues a permit to operate to prevent unscrupulous traders from evading tax liabilities. Customs division director Joe Mafnas said there is a need for a law that would allow the customs division to do a background check to effectively crack down on tax evaders. The investigation would not only minimize the backlog on tax collectibles but would also help the CNMI government collect unpaid liabilities from these businesses. In an interview yesterday, Mafnas disclosed that local businesses that have already closed down pose a big problem to the division since businessmen can easily get new licenses and open new businesses.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 253

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Falcon and the showman

How's this for a reality show concept? Call it "Schemers": A man and woman fall in love—with fame, that is. They waste scads of taxpayer dollars and scare the daylights out of the public by telling police that their propitiously named son, Falcon, is soaring off in a wayward balloon. Except he was never in the balloon at all. What a laugh riot!

You'll recognize this, no doubt, as the plot of the true-life story that unfolded last week. The money moment came during that family interview on CNN when 6-year-old Falcon Heene, who it turns out might be more grounded in reality than his parents, responded to questions about why he had hidden in the garage by telling his dad, "You said we did this for a show." Father Richard sighed "Hmm." Mom Mayumi paused for a moment and said "No." Kids say the darndest things, don't they?

The Heenes haven't been convicted of anything, no matter what the sheriff of Larimer County accuses them of. But there is little doubt that they were publicity hounds. And publicity is what they now have in abundance. Even if they do turn out to be hoaxsters, they might nevertheless be able to take a page from Nadya Suleman, the mother of octuplets, who has her own reality show. At the very least, a well-paid exclusive interview with People magazine could be in the offing for the Heenes, and there's always the possibility of an appearance with Dr. Phil, who would no doubt scold them roundly for their publicity-seeking behavior while he keeps a careful eye on the ratings for his show.

Society will tsk-tsk, but grocery shoppers will pick up the magazine at the checkout stand, at least for a quick leaf-through to see if there are any more tidbits of information for them to shake their heads at, scandalized. Then they'll catch the clips, at least online, of whatever talk show signs the deal. And if the Heenes are eventually convicted and sent to prison, there might be an even more riveting reality show awaiting them: life behind bars. Call it "Desperate Hustlers." The supporting cast is sure to be colorful, and think of the precocious new lines Falcon might deliver on visiting days.

The world of celebrity depends on a symbiotic relationship. As much as some people will do just about anything for a Hollywood contract, a good number of the rest of us will lap up the juicy story of their wrongdoing. In reality, perhaps we all get what we wanted.

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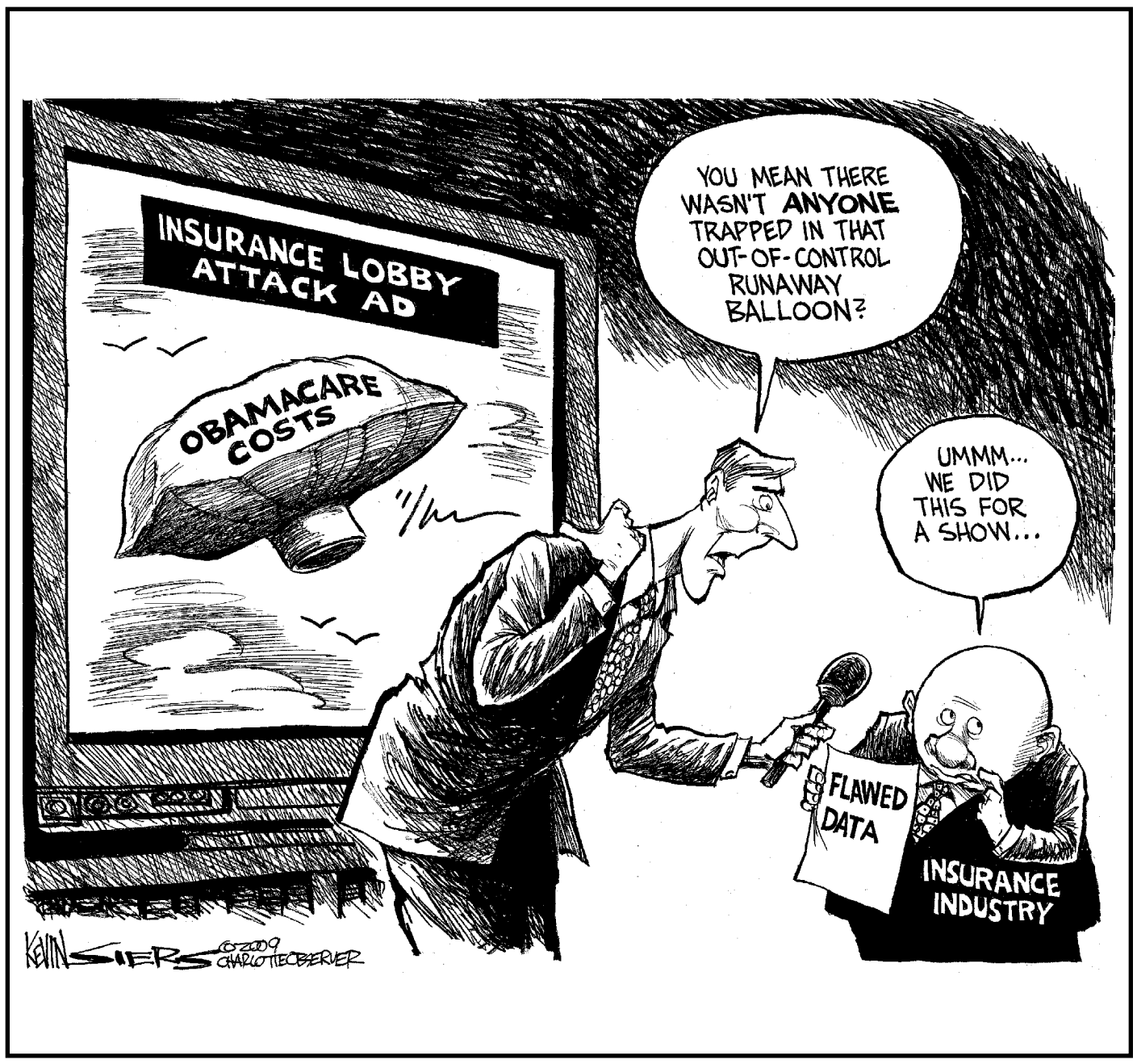

INSURANCE LOBBY ATTACK AD
OBAMACARE COSTS
YOU MEAN THERE WASN'T ANYONE TRAPPED IN THAT OUT-OF-CONTROL RUNAWAY BALLOON?
UMMM... WE DID THIS FOR A SHOW...
FLAWED DATA
INSURANCE INDUSTRY
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTEOBSERVER

Survey says

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

On the television game show *Family Feud*, Richard Dawson would turn to the game board behind him and say, "Survey says!" The participants' answers were then compared with the responses of 100 people whose answers were ranked. Surveys are one of the best ways for your business to get accurate and timely feedback from your customers or employees, but many organizations just "wing it" and hope that their decisions and offerings are something their customers want.

Sometimes decisions for the customers are made because of the personal preferences of the people in charge. If you've ever wanted to know something about your customers or employees, you can simply ask them; however, few business owners conduct any kind of survey to gauge their responses. Here are 10 tips to help you get started when you decide to write your own survey.

1. Know your purpose for the survey. This helps determine the type of people (or demographic profile, if you want to get fancy) who will take the survey and the questions that should be asked. Having a purpose helps you ask relevant questions, and allows you to know what you want to accomplish.

2. Give the survey a title and introduce it well. When you ask customers to take a survey, you should "sell" it by letting them know the objective of the survey, and possibly how it benefits them. It can also help grab your customers' attention and causes them to take the survey right away.

3. Keep It Short and Simple. Every question asked should focus on "need to know" questions that keep the survey on purpose. Both your questions and directions should be short and simple.

4, Think of your survey as a funnel. There should be a logical transition from the initial introduction to the last question. Broad, easy to understand questions should start the survey and then more detailed and specific ones should end it.

5. Ask the right questions. Make them easy to understand by using words with clear meaning. Your customers should not be confused by the questions, or be given a choice between several responses that that are unclear.

6. If you want your customers to rank a list of items, limit the number of options to six or less. If your list is too long, the respondent may stop taking the survey. One long question can be made into two shorter questions.

7. Avoid influencing the answer. The way you ask a question can influence a respondent's answer. Avoid biased or leading questions that indicate the preferred answer.

8. Offer "no opinion," "don't know" or "not applicable" as an option on your questions. Don't assume the participants know something about every question you ask. People may respond to a question, even though they know little about it because there are no other options.

9. Allow respondents to add comments. If there is something you missed, this allows them to respond and can give you additional insight that you may not have anticipated. It also increases their satisfaction level because they can express their thoughts and feelings.

10. Send a pilot survey before sending the final survey to everyone. This initial survey allows you to discover any problem areas or where more information might be useful. If you're using the Internet to send the survey, you can receive responses within 24 hours and use them to fine-tune your survey for a larger list.

Now that you've written your survey, its time to administer it, gather the results and analyze the data. You can personally hand people a paper survey to complete, mail it with a postage-paid reply envelope, call on the phone, or send an e-mail using one of the numerous survey sites. The nice thing about Internet-based surveys is that the results are automatically compiled and analyzed. They are also fast and inexpensive.

Respect the time of your respondents by thanking them, and offering some type of incentive such as a gift, coupon or entering their name for a prize drawing. A reward can increase your response rate and encourage future participation. If done effectively, your results will allow you to make better decisions that will ultimately translate into improved performance, productivity, or profits. So, the next time you're contemplating a decision that affects your customers or employees, you can simply check what the survey says.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Untruthful, again

I would like to respond to Deanne Siemer's letter to the editor concerning my view of umbrella permits to clarify some important points. By purposely leaving out and distorting the facts, Ms. Siemer was not truthful. *I did not change my position on umbrella permits. I said that I would not recommend signing the permits until major questions were answered including the main question of whether or not they conflict with CNMI or federal laws.*

I would not recommend that guest workers sign the permits as long as the guest workers must agree to cover the costs of their repatriation and health care. These benefits were promised to the workers when they left their homelands. These provisions are a vital part of a legal contractual agreement that was approved by DOL. If employers and bonding companies fail, if the 96 days set by the court opinion expires, then it should be the responsibility of the CNMI government to cover these costs, rather than the impoverished foreign contract workers.

Guest workers have reported that there are no jobs available. Will umbrella permits magically make jobs appear? What will happen if DOL decides there will be no more extensions and those without jobs must be repatriated, yet the guest have no money to cover the costs? How can a person who has been unemployed for months suddenly come up with airfare or medical costs? It will be especially difficult, if not impossible, for those who are staying to collect the unpaid wages that they are owed. Isn't it an additional slap in the face for guest workers whose employers cheated them to have to sign a paper letting those very same employers off the hook for these contractual obligations too?

It appears that the attorneys who penned this permit assume that the responsibility for covering these expenses will shift from the employers, to the bonding companies, to the poor employees and ultimately to the U.S. government and U.S. taxpayers. It is interesting that the CNMI government was left out of this equation.

Ms. Siemer said, "Wendy is wrong on another count. This requirement with respect to medical expenses and repatriation expenses is not new." Ms. Siemer was not truthful again. I never said that it was new. She said, "Wendy elected not to participate in the process of developing this program. That is her right. And she elected not to give us her views about medical expenses and repatriation expenses while we were considering this issue." This is also not true. Ms. Siemer failed to tell the readers that I acknowledged over a month before this umbrella permit proposal ever came out that DOL was requesting workers to agree to this very same provision when they applied for a renewal extension.

In fact, I did give my views. I asked Ms. Siemer to remove it from the transfer cover sheet. On Sept. 3, 2009, I sent her an e-mail stating this: "The cover sheet violates PL 15-108 Section 4954(a) which states "the last employer of record of a foreign worker shall be responsible for the cost of repatriating the worker." You cannot have guest workers sign that paper, because it is a violation of the law. Why doesn't DOL go after the employers and ensure that they have a return ticket? How can a poor worker even be expected to come up with money for a ticket? That is totally unreasonable. I am certain that this cover sheet is what the guest workers have been complaining about. Please remove this statement about repatriation from the cover sheet."

After several workers and leaders of guest worker groups contacted me to complain, I asked an attorney for a legal opinion on this policy. I was told that it was not legal as it conflicts with PL 15-108, the labor law that Ms. Siemer helped to write. So why on earth would she even think that I would support such a provision now if I previously stated it was illegal and even asked for it to be removed from transfer cover sheets? She absolutely knew my position. She ignored it.

This agreement in the permit does not mention a time span or say it kicks in after 96 days. It simply states: "Seeking employment: This permit may be revoked under circumstances when the holder is not employed and is seeking employment unless the holder makes diligent efforts to locate full time employment suitable to the holder's skills and abilities and finds an employer within a reasonable time. While seeking employment, the holder of this permit is responsible for all medical and repatriation expenses for the holder and any sponsored alien immediate relatives and for the full support of any minor children, and the holder will maintain sufficient resources or provide a sufficient bond or undertaking by a financially responsible third party to meet these obligations. CNMI law provides no right to an extension of time to seek employment; each request is considered by a hearing officer on the merits of the written request as to whether employment is likely to be obtained within a reasonable time and any risk to the Commonwealth has been met."

The entire permit raises questions. Where is there a mention of after 96 days? What is a reasonable length of time to find a new employer—a day, a week, a month or until a person is starving? What kind of legal document contains ambiguous language like this?

Ms. Siemer asked me to work with "them" after the May hearing. It is true that I declined. I responded saying this:

"As you may know, my human rights work is something I have been committed to since 1988 and I continue to perform on my own time with my own personal funds. For that reason I am very selective in my activities and focus. Both my time and funds are limited. My primary goals are: to are ensure that the foreign contract workers are treated fairly and respectfully and are viewed as valued members of the community and future citizens, not as replaceable commodities; to encourage a federal immigration system implemented with a just and democratic transitional guest worker program in the CNMI; and to ensure that all long-term (five or more years) foreign contract workers who come to the U.S. (including the CNMI) to work are provided a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

"I seriously do not believe that you and I have the same goals. I see your work as supporting the Fitial Administration's goals of trying to maintain the local system, which promotes indentured servitude and has allowed the theft of labor from innocent foreigners. You want to maintain that system; I want to replace it. I do not think it would advance my goals or benefit the foreign contract workers for me to collaborate with you.

"It became quite clear to me, and to many of the foreign workers that your intentions with the forums on 'local status' were to advance Fitial Administration goals, which are to prevent federalization and maintain the local system.

"If you think I am wrong on my views, I will certainly listen to what you have to say. But if our goals are so far apart, as I believe them to be, then I think my time would be better spent advancing my work in regard to promoting a just federal transitional program and ensuring that all foreigners who come to work on U.S. soil are treated justly and given a pathway to U.S. citizenship after five years' duration."

How very disingenuous to pretend that the umbrella permits are anything but an attempt to keep the maximum amount of guest workers in the CNMI for the maximum amount of time and to maintain local control of the dysfunctional local labor system for as long as can be. The authors are not concerned that the economy has crashed, and these poor people who are requesting renewals have little hope of landing a position. They are not concerned that the workers do not qualify for federal assistance and are struggling to survive with no money.

If a person makes the choice to sign a permit, of course, I will respect that choice, but again, I would not recommend signing the permits until questions are answered. I understand that inquiries have been made to both local and federal officials requesting clarification on issues.

If the Fitial administration, its officials, and its volunteers were truly concerned with the welfare of the guest workers, stabilizing the CNMI economy, and ensuring a secure labor pool they would ask the Department of the Interior to recommend to the U.S. Congress that they immediately introduce legislation to grant every guest worker and every alien in the CNMI a green card and direct pathway to citizenship.

Wendy L. Doromal
Orlando, Florida

Outrageous! Insulting! Absurd!

It's hard to decide which is the more outrageous, insulting, offensive—the three-day comment period, or the illiterate form of the draft document, but once again the CNMI has thrown away money far better spent on other things.

According to a story in the Oct. 16 issue of the *Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI paid $160,000 to something called Project Management Operations LLC to define what the CNMI could offer the U.S. Department of Defense in the way of goods, services and facilities as DOD moves several thousand Marines from Okinawa to Guam over the next few years.

On Oct. 13, a request for comment for PMO LLC's draft report was published in the paper—announcing a deadline of Oct. 16, 2009, by which to submit comments. That's three days.

Three days? To review a 77-page document? To evaluate its proposals on how the CNMI might benefit from the Guam/DoD buildup? To prepare written comment on them? To, perhaps, offer additional suggestions, corrections, edits?

Outrageous! Insulting! Absurd!

As far as the illiterateness of the document goes, it begins with the title, which was used in the ad, on the web, on the document itself: "A strategic approach utilizing CNMI's natural resources to provide complimentary support to DoD Guam," where what was meant was complementary, or supportive, and not "free," as the word "compl*i*mentary" suggests. And it only gets worse from there. There are incomplete sentences. There are sentences that make no sense. There are misspellings. There is poor grammar, with singular verbs for plural subjects, and vice versa.

A sentence that made no sense to me, from page 49: "Competitive analysis of DoD contracts consists of lead systems integrators, their sub contractors and independents."

Another, page 70: "The below quote indicates that the Military already knows that the value in the MIRC [Mariana Islands Range Complex] area and how perfect the MIRC is for operations such training."

An incomplete sentence (and no, this was not used as a heading): page 39: "Command, Control Communication, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (C4ISR) or the information grid." p. 39

Another, page 71: Along with the fact that the CNMI is a U.S. territory, making it easier to for the DoD to perform military training exercises that would normally be hindered in foreign territories due to politics. P. 71

A word usage error, page 72: " MIRC states that there will be no significant affect to urban areas." It should read, "effect on urban areas."

Outrageous! Insulting! Offensive!

The report makes a dangerous assumption, page 41: "The DoD requires lots of space for maneuvers, training, living, commerce, and recreation. *The CNMI,s abundance of undeveloped space provides a blank canvas* on which the partnership can be designed to maximize value for the DoD and the CNMI. (emphasis added)

Then there's the more than 30 pages of the document that are boilerplate, copied from other sources, generic in nature. And the fact that the document entirely ignores the limits to the size of the total CNMI workforce.

Does the document offer anything useful? Its breakdown into three categories of DOD need and interest—operational support, military supplies and maintenance, and quality of life—in which the CNMI could participate, and its breakdown into near- mid- and long-term outlooks were useful. But the document and its content aren't that detailed, that complex, that sophisticated as to be worth the $160,000 it cost to obtain them.

At the very least, the comment period for the draft report should be re-opened for a minimum of another two weeks to allow some transparency in the process.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag Village, Saipan

Airplane stories

I really enjoyed Ed Stephens' article on the B-25 Bomber. My oldest brother flew in the B-17 bomber during World War II over Germany. One day while we were talking about his private airplane he told me of one bombing run on a port city that had high U-shaped mountains around it. Someone came up with the idea that the best way to bomb it was to come in low over the water, drop their bombs, and rapid climb to get high enough to clear the mountains on their way out. He said the flyers all considered it a suicide run and that he went through it three times.

My brother said that at one pre-dawn briefing for the day's mission, they were told there would be no more missions. He said he didn't believe them. Then one morning at breakfast, five days later, he stopped eating and said, "It must be true—by God, I have survived WWII!" He was lucky—actually more airmen died in the air war over Germany than did the Marines in the Pacific.

I hope you have more airplane stories.

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

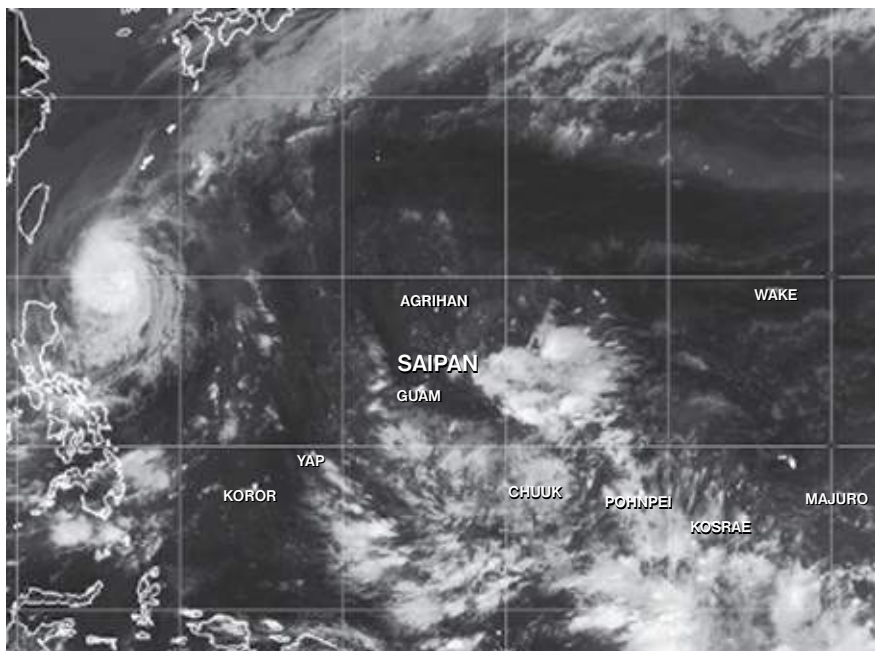
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲58	▼41
Hong Kong	Rain	▲83	▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Showers	▲57	▼43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼55
Miami	Cloudy	▲81	▼72
New York	Cloudy	▲54	▼42
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲54	▼40
Pusan	Showers	▲64	▼50
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼42
Salem	Cloudy	▲61	▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Showers	▲56	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼43

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 10N144E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Chuuk near 5N153E to a second weak circulation centered south of Kwajalein near 4N168E to end near 5N180. Convergent winds around the trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a broad area that includes Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 10N from 140E to 150E within an area bounded by a line that runs from 7N160E to EQ160E to EQ170E back to 7N160E including Kosrae and between 5N and 7N from 176E to179E. This third area is east of Majuro. An upper-level low east of the Marianas is centered near 16N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located between 11N and 16N from 150E to 156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:02 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:12 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:37 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:04 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:39 AM	8:05 PM
Friday	9:35 AM	8:57 PM
Saturday	10:28 AM	9:50 PM
Sunday	12:02 AM	11:34 PM
Monday	12:43 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Last flights Oct. 23 and 24
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	via NGO last flights Oct 21 and 23
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Last flights Oct. 21 to 24

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Last flights Oct. 21 to 24
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	via NGO last flights Oct 20 and 22
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Last flights Oct. 22, 23 and 24

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

Caught out in a lie

On Oct. 21, somebody with the last name of Benavente wrote a letter linking Angelo Villagomez to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Mr. Benavente claims the monument took away all the best fishing spots and that fishermen now have to go out farther to fish.

Does Mr. Benavente know how to read a map? The monument is 300 miles north of Saipan and I can tell you from stories my father told me that it takes 48 hours of non-stop travel to reach that part of the Marianas.

And fishermen have to go farther to catch fish now? What is farther away than the monument? The only thing north of Uracas is Japan. It isn't even legal for American fishing vessels to fish in Japan! The monument has affected not a single fisherman, especially since the regulations for the monument are two years away. You just got caught in a lie, Mr. Benavente.

But you know what? If Mr. Benavente were to travel to the monument, which I doubt he ever has, he'd be able to fish! The monument only bans commercial fishing! And although I do not know him, I do not believe Mr. Benavente owns a Taiwanese long liner, so were he to ever visit the monument he would be able to catch as many fish as he wanted.

On top of that, Angelo was the strongest proponent of providing for indigenous fishing rights in the monument proclamation. And you know what? President Bush included them! Indigenous fishing rights are now codified in federal law! That never existed for Chamorros or Refaluwasch before Angelo campaigned for them. Talk about defending the indigenous people! Is Mr. Benavente indigenous? Well, guess what? Angelo fought for your fishing rights!

Mr. Benavente then goes on to attack Angelo for being educated. I've known Angelo my entire life and you probably don't know that he worked minimum wage jobs to make it through college. He went to school full time, drove straight to work, and when he got home stayed up late, tired as he was, finishing his homework. I know this because I lived with him at the time. Has Mr. Benavente ever worked a minimum wage job in his life? Angelo has two degrees, is smart and a hard worker and could have a high paying job elsewhere, but he chose to come back to Saipan to work in the low paying non-profit sector. How can you possibly criticize him for that? When he plants trees in front of your children's school or organizes a cleanup in your village, how is that not caring about you?

I recommend Mr. Benavente spend some time reading the declaration for the monument. He would learn that it does not affect local fishermen, but it sure does improve tourism. He'd learn that it is 300 miles away, in a part of the Marianas he's never visited. He'd also learn that recreational, sustenance, subsistence, and indigenous fishing are all allowed in every single inch of the monument, and that his arguments are lies made to discredit someone who cares deeply for his people and who has put into action those things he said he would do.

Mr. Benavente is free to vote for his candidate of choice, but he should not spin outlandish tales of local fishermen having to fish in Japan to put food on their family's tables. Being the first campaign to sling mud reflects poorly on him and it reflects poorly on the candidate that shares his last name.

Alexander Villagomez
Fina Sisu, Saipan

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Public Education on "Open Government Act of 2007"

Question: Do you approve of the popular initiative entitled the "Open Government Act of 2007," to amend 1 CMC §9913 to read as follows: "§9913. Legislative Branch: Applicability. The Commonwealth Legislature, including all Commonwealth legislators and the Legislative Bureau, shall be subject to 1 CMC §9901, et seq. The respective rules and procedures of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Bureau shall be in compliance with this Chapter." Yes or No.

Proposed Purpose: "The people of the Commonwealth find and declare that they do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. It is the intent of this Initiative Petition that the Commonwealth Legislature, including all Commonwealth legislators and the Legislative Bureau, shall be subject to Public Law 8-41, the Open Government Act, 1 CMC §§ 9901, et seq.

General Summary: If this initiative is approved, the Open Government Act outlined in Public Law 8-41 will apply to the legislature. The Open Government Act ensures that the general public remains informed on the issues that their elected officials bring in front of the legislature. All Legislative meetings are announced ahead of time, and final action is not taken unless the public has had a chance to comment on the measure.

(1) The legislature would have to give seventy-two hours (3 days) notice of its agenda to the general public. This notice is to be published in the media in order to allow the general public to make comments or attend meetings where issues that are important to them will be discussed.

(2) During legislative meetings all "persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the governing body of a public agency."

(3) The legislature must afford all individuals an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, in writing on any agenda item.

(4) No ordinance, rule, resolution, law, regulation, etc. may be adopted except in a meeting open to the public.

(5) Final action may only be taken on an ordinance, rule, resolution, law, regulation, etc. at a meeting that has been fixed by law or rule or by which notice has been given in accordance with the Open Government act (either 72-hour notice or if it is an emergency an emergency meeting can be called).

(6) In times of emergency, a meeting may be called without needing to give 72 hours' notice. However, the legislature must "(a) state in writing the reasons for its finding that an emergency exists; (b) take a vote whereby two-thirds of all members to which the board is entitled agree that an emergency exists; (c) file an emergency agenda and the findings on emergency in official records of the governing bodies."

(7) Lastly, this initiative entitles the public to inspect within ten days of a request all public records, unless specifically exempted within Section 19 of the law.

NMC ends 1st phase of facilities master plan project

Taking one step closer to becoming the premier learning institution in the Pacific region, the Northern Marianas College has completed the initial stage of its facilities master plan project, the college's comprehensive plan to develop and expand its campus.

The facilities master plan is the central planning document that the college will use to connect the physical development of the campus to the needs of students, faculty, and staff. When completed, the plan will guide the campus layout, building designs, recreational space, and technological concerns.

The plan will also incorporate the latest in sustainable "green" design, which involves resource efficiency, lowered cost of building operations, energy efficiency, and a minimum impact to the environment.

"Students, faculty and staff deserve the best learning and teaching environment," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The facilities master plan will help ensure that they will receive a state-of-the-art campus with facilities that are equipped with modern technology and that maximize student learning."

The first phase of the facilities master plan project involved the topographical survey of the As Terlaje campus. This stage involved the recording and assessment of elevation of the land, including existing structures like roads, buildings, trees, depressions, and utilities.

"Now that the initial phase of the project is completed, we can move on to the more substantive part of the facilities master plan, which is deciding how the overall layout of the NMC campus will be designed given current student needs and developing trends," said Fernandez.

She also stressed the inclusive nature of the master planning process.

"Everyone at NMC will have an opportunity to participate in the facilities master planning process," said Fernandez. "Community input will also be invited."

"We will also use the results from our ongoing program review processes to drive the master planning process," she added.

The facilities master plan project is being developed by Beca International, whom the college has contracted through funds provided through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Once the facilities master plan is approved, the college will work toward securing local and/or federal funds for the architectural and engineering plan and the actual construction costs. ***(NMC)***

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Edukasion Pupbliku gi "Open Government Act of 2007"

Kuestion: Kåo un apreba i suena na initiative entitled i "Open Government Act of 2007" para u amenda i 1 CMC §9913 ya u listo gi sigiente: "§9913. Råmas Lehislatura: Applicability. I Lehislaturan Commonwealth, såsaonao todu i lehisladot siha yan i Lehislative Bureau, debi na suheto para i 1 CMC §9901, et seq. I respective na areklamento yan manera siha gi Senate, i House of Representative siha, yan i Lehislative Bureau debi na u matattiyi este na kapitulu." Hunggan pat Åhe'

Hångai ni Mapropone: "I taotåo i Commonwealth ha sodda' yan deklåra na ti ma'entrega i iyon-ñiha sovereignty para i ahente siha ni sumetbe siha. I taotåo, ni dumiligågadu i åturdåt, ti siña ha nå'i i setbision pupbliku siha direcho para u disidi håfa måolek para i taotåo siha para u matungo' yan håfa ti måolek para siha para u matungo'. I taotåo siha ma'insiste na u fanma'enfotma kosa ki siña u madesponi kontra i instrument siha ni mafa'tinas. I intension este na Initiative Petition na i Lehislaturan i Commonwealth, såsåonao todu i Lehisladot Commonwealth siha yan Lagislative Bureau, debi na suheto para i Lain Pupbliku 8-41, i Åkton Open Government, 1 CMC §§9901, et seq.

Sumårian Heneråt: Yanggen este na initiative ma'apreba, i Åkton i Open Government ha obra gi Lain Pupbliku 8-41 para u aplika guatu gi lehislatura. I Åkton i Open Government ha na'siguru na i pupbliku heneråt inemfofotma gi manera siha na i manma'ilihi na ofisiåles siha ni mana'fanhålom gi lehislatura. Todu i huntan Legislative siha manma'anunsia kontiempo, ya ti machuchule' uttimo na aksion solo i pupbliku gumuaha chanså-ña para u nå'i opiñon gi minidi.

(1) I lehislatura debi na u nå'i sitienta i dos(72) ora siha (3 diha siha) na notisian ayendå-ña i pupblikiu heneråt. Este na notisia para u mapupblika gi media ni anai siña masedi i pupbliku heneråt para u fa'tinas opiñon pat u ma'atende i hunta siha gi anai gaige i manimpottånte na manera siha para siha ni para u madiskuti.
(2) Gi durånten i huntan i legislative siha todu "petsonåt siha manmapetmiti para u ma'atende maseha håfa na hunta ni ginobiebietna i tatåotåo i ahentan i pupbliku.
(3) I lehislatura debi na u na'siña todu indibiyuåt siha opottunidåt para u mana'hålom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha , gi tinige' maseha håfa gi attikulon i ayenda.
(4) Tåya' otdinånsia, areklamento, resulasion, lai, regulasion, etc. siña ma'adåpta solo gi halom i hunta ni mababa para i pupbliku.
(5) I uttimo na aksion anai siña machule' gi otdinånsia, areklamento, resulasion, lai, regulasion, etc. gi hunta ni ma'arekla ginen i pat areklamento pat ginen i notisia ni manmanån'i gi sigun i åkton i Open Government (maseha 72 ora siha na notisia pat yanggen gof nisisårio i ensigidas na hunta nai siña ma'ågang).
(6) Gi tiempon emergency, i hunta siña ma'ågang ti nisisårio na un nå'i sitienta ora siha na notisia. Låo, i lehislatura debi na "(a) u sångan gi tinige' i rason pot håfa sinedda'ña na i emergency gagaige ha' siha; (b) u mabota guini two'thirds gi todu i miembro siha ni i kuetpo u entitled na gagaige ha' i emergency siha; (c) po'lo i emergency na ayenda yan i sinedda' siha gi ofisiåt na rekot siha gi governing bodies.
(7) Pot uttimo, este na initiative entitles i pupbliku para u rikonosi gi halom i dies(10) diha siha gi ginagåo todu i rekot pupbliku siha, solo ma'espesifika na sahnge gi halom i Seksiona 19 gi lai.

$24.8M for tsunami-hit A. Samoa

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Labor announced yesterday a $24,857,608 National Emergency Grant award to assist cleanup and recovery efforts in the wake of a tsunami that struck American Samoa on Sept. 29.

"Our hearts go out to the victims and survivors of the recent tsunami in American Samoa," said Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis. "Today's grant will support ongoing recovery efforts and help American Samoans put their lives back together."

These funds will be awarded to the American Samoa Department of Human Resources. Funds will be used to create more temporary jobs to assist in the recovery efforts as a result of the devastation caused by the tsunami.

On Sept. 29, the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared all islands in the U.S. territory of American Samoa eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Of the $24,857,608 announced yesterday, $8,285,870 will be released initially. Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the territory demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

National Emergency Grants are part of the secretary of Labor's discretionary fund and are awarded based on a state's ability to meet specific guidelines. ***(PR)***

Free workshops on preventing hazardous chemical spills

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam will hold workshops in Guam and the CNMI covering Spill Prevention and Countermeasures requirements, response planning, and other topics relating to facility inspections for hazardous chemical spill prevention.

The workshops will be held Nov. 4, 2009, in Guam at the Hilton Guam Resort and Nov. 9 in the CNMI at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The workshops will be presented from 8:30am to 4pm.

The free workshops will contain information on the following topics:

- Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plans Requirements
- Response Planning (FRP)
- Emergency Planning, Emergency Release Notifications, and Hazardous Chemical Reporting Regulations
- Risk Management Program: *Required Components & How to Submit Them*
- Facility Inspections: *Understanding New USCG Facility Regulations*
- Inspection Criteria: *The Good, the Bad, and the Non-Compliant*

The workshops would be of interest to all business owners who handle chemicals, local and state agency personnel, and community members. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. This workshop is essential for all facilities that use or store hazardous substances in quantities subject to federal regulations.

The EPA's Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Program will provide information on the requirements for reporting chemical inventories and accidental release prevention, as well as requirements for managing risk posed by chemicals used or stored at facilities. EPA guidance documents and information will be provided to workshop attendees.

To register, e-mail: Christopher.Curatilo@errg.com or Elizabeth.Robnett@errg.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Democrats to hold party rally

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands will be holding a party rally on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, at the public pavilion on Alageta Road in Kagman II. The event will run from 12pm to 2pm. The entire island community is invited to come and meet and greet the Democratic Party candidates for the 2009 elections. Meet the Saipan mayoral candidate Angelo O'Conner Villagomez; Saipan Senate candidate Justo Songao Quitugua; and Precinct 5 candidates Jesse Jones Torres and Willie Brundidge Jr. There will be food and drinks available for all to enjoy. Here is your chance to be candid and frank with the Democratic Party candidates. You will have the opportunity to speak directly with the candidates so come over to this important event and show your support for the new Democratic Party. ***(PR)***

KKA sets gubernatorial forum

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that the group will be hosting a Gubernatorial Forum at the Kagman Community Center on Friday, Oct. 23 at 7pm. KKA encourages the undecided voters to attend and share their concerns. For more information, contact KKA president, Jesse Torres at kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Homes sought for 2 kittens

The Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, PAWS, has two tiny adorable kittens looking for a home. They are weaned, domesticated (they really love people!), and have been checked by Paradise Island Animal Hospital. We need to find homes for them right away, as they're really restricted at their foster residence. Call Ron at 287-5518 if you'd like to foster or adopt one or both of these little ones. Pictures of them are available at http://paws-saipan.org/homeless.asp. ***(PAWS)***

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Ammatafal Toulap reel "Open Government Act of 2007"

Ayegh: U aprebali mille popular initiative ye ital nge "Open Government Act of 2007" ebwe siweli 1 CMC § 9913 bwe ebwe kkaisul: "9913. Legislative Branch: Applicability. Commonwealth Legislature, me bwal alongeer legislators me legislative Bureau, ebwe subject ngáli 1 CMC § 9901, et seq. Allégh me aweewe kka Senate, House of presentative me Legislative Bureau rebwe attabweey Chapter yeel? Awer me ngáre Saabw.

Pomwol Bwúlúl: " Aramasal Commonwealth re schungi me dikklarai bwe rese yield-li yaar sovereignty ngáliir agencies kka re serve-liir. Aramas, llól bwángiir reel delegating, nge ese ngálleer public servants direchoor bwe rebwe disidili meeta e ghatch ngáliir aramas rebwe ghuleey me meeta ese ghatch rebwe ghuleey. Aramas re amamaaw rebwe aghuleey ngáliir bwelle igha iir rebwe lemaliir instrument kka re ayoora. Pomwol Initiative Petition yeel bwe Commonwealth Legislators me Legislative Bureau rebwe attabweey Public Law 8-41, Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901, et seq.

Aweewe: Ngáre Initiative yeel e apreba, iwe Open Government ye e outline llól Public Law 8-41 ebwe apply ngáliir legislature. Open Government Act e asiguruw bwe aramas toulap re aghuleey ngáliir alongal issues kka layúr elected officials re bwughilong llól legislature. Alongal meetingil legislative e arongowow mmwal igha rebwe ayoora, nge re ssóbw bwungúwuló ngáre toulap rese amweri mwo.

(1) Legislature ebwe ayoora fisigh me ruwoow ora (élérál) arongol yaar agenda ngáliir toulap. Arong kkaal ebwe akkatéwow llól media bwelle toulap rebwe mmwelil isisilong yaar mángemáng me ngáre tabweey yélágh kkaal bweigha issues kka rebwe aweewe wóól e pirisisu ngáliir rebwe aweweey.

(2) Alongal yélághil legislative nge "alongeer armas rebwe mweiting ngáliir rebwe tabweey alongal governing body mellól public agency."

(3) Legislature alongeer aramas rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng, llól alongal agenda.

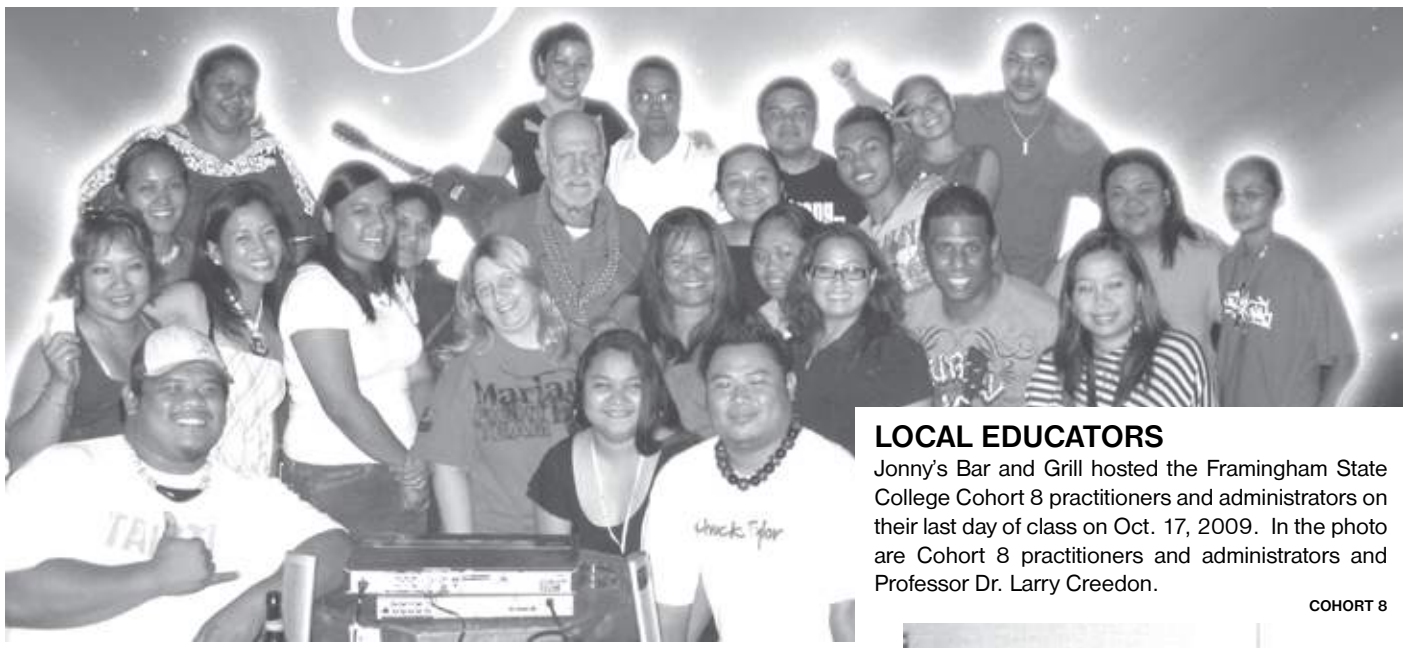
(4) Esóór ordinances, allégh, resolution, etc rebwe adoptaay solo e suusu ngáliir toulap meeting yeel.

(5) Final action emmwel rebwe féérú ngáre schagh reel ordinance, allégh, resolution, etc, llól yéélágh ye aa bwung sángi allégh me ngáre aa mwir sángi Open Government Act (sángi ngáre 72 oral arong me ngáre emergency, emergency meeting emmwel ebwe faffay.

(6) Llól ótol emergency, emmwel ebwe faffay meeting inaamwo igha ese yoor orong llól fisiigh ora. Nge legislature ebwe "(a) ebwe ischitiw meeta bwulul ebwe yoor emergency reel; (b) membro rebwe bwotaali nge ebwe yoor two-thirds re bwunguw mellól board bwe eyoor emergency; (c) ebwe file emergencey agenda me schungi yeer bwe eyoor emergencey llól official record."

(7) Arorosol, intiative yeel nge e mweiti ngáliir toulap bwe rebwe amweri llól seigh rál sángi akkúlé alongal record kka yaal toulap ngáre schagh e mwir sángi Section 19 mellól allégh iwe e exempted.

Island Snapshots



LOCAL EDUCATORS

Jonny's Bar and Grill hosted the Framingham State College Cohort 8 practitioners and administrators on their last day of class on Oct. 17, 2009. In the photo are Cohort 8 practitioners and administrators and Professor Dr. Larry Creedon.

COHORT 8

Happy birthday to my baby girl, Tia-Jo Davis Seman! With lots of love from *nina* and *nino* Jocelyn and Kevin Kapileo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Aldebert Concepcion Sr. of Chalan Piao, who is celebrating his 56th birthday today, Oct. 22. Wishing you the best on your special day! Warm greetings come from your wife, Celina; children Aldebert Jr., Christopher, Kimberly and Michael; grandchildren Aldebert III, Joseph and Brian; and the rest of the Chalan Piao family. Photo shows, from left, wife Celina Attao Concepcion, daughter Kimberly Attao Concepcion and the birthday celebrant, Aldebert Concepcion Sr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COURT STAFF

Superior Court staff members, from left, Francine Pangelinan, Sabrina Delacruz, and Kristy Diaz pose for a photo in the Supreme Court during the recent proclamation signing that reaffirmed the Judiciary's support for the NMI and Guam soldiers.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI TSUNAMI RELIEF DRIVE for SAMOA

Island 2 Island

We are currently accepting cash donations for the tsunami victims at any **BANK OF GUAM location.**

Clothing donations pick-up: call LEVA- 286-3311 / MASINA- 286-2409

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Business

Watchdog: Bailout helped but at a great cost

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government watchdog said the $700 billion bailout for the financial industry played a major role in rescuing the economy over the last year but also engendered anger and distrust among Americans because of secrecy and confusion about the way the program was handled.

Barofski

The mixed and blunt assessment by Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general in charge of oversight for the bailout fund, appears in a quarterly report scheduled for release Wednesday. Barofsky said the Troubled Asset Relief Program has come at great cost to taxpayers, to the integrity of the financial system and to the public's perception of the federal government.

"Despite the aspects of TARP that could reasonably be viewed as a substantial success," he wrote, "Treasury's actions in this regard have contributed to damage the credibility of the program and of the government itself, and the anger, cynicism and distrust created must be chalked up as one of the substantial, albeit unnecessary, costs of TARP."

Barofsky said public suspicion was fed by Treasury's decision not to require banks to report how they used their rescue money and its "less-than-accurate" statements describing the financial condition of nine large banks that benefited from large infusions of aid. The TARP program began under the administration of President George W. Bush and has expanded under President Barack Obama.

The program has come under criticism in Congress from across the political spectrum. Liberals maintain the program needs to shift its focus from big financial firms to small businesses and homeowners. Conservatives insist the program has been an unnecessary intrusion into the financial sector and should end swiftly.

On Wednesday, Obama is expected to announce a new TARP program to assist community banks. The American Bankers' Association has asked for $5 billion in rescue-fund money to help small banks extend more loans.

In his report, Barofsky credited the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department for adopting some of his accountability recommendations over the past several months. But he said several of his agency's proposals for greater transparency have gone unheeded.

SEPARATE ISLANDS, COMMON GOALS

Heinz Sablan Hofschneider Arnold Indalecio Palacios

MESSAGE FROM THE CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

Arnold and I believe that the key to addressing our economic problems is increasing government revenues while reducing wasteful spending. An important part of our plan to increase government revenues is to maximize the potential of existing economic development opportunities.

One of the CNMI's most lucrative economic opportunities, just waiting to be tapped, is the as yet fledgling gaming industry on Tinian and Rota. Despite this golden opportunity, past CNMI administrations have failed miserably in recognizing and taking concrete steps to support this industry and its expansion.

Currently, the Tinian gaming industry—through taxes, fees, and employee salaries and benefits—pumps millions of dollars annually into our economy, a majority of this directly into the Commonwealth's General Fund. There is absolutely no reason why this amount cannot be increased ten-fold.

In order to benefit from this potential, Arnold and I pledge to take specific steps that will lead to additional casinos on Tinian and new casinos on Rota. What needs to be done to support this industry is common knowledge. Once in office, our administration will move aggressively to carry out the steps necessary to promote and expand this huge economic opportunity, thereby increasing CNMI government revenues. Well-managed, these dramatically increased revenues will support our plans to improve education and health care for the entire Commonwealth.

Heinz and Arnold

TINIAN GOP CANDIDATES

Jude Untalan Hofschneider
Incumbent – Senator

Frank Quichocho Cruz
Senator

Ramon Muna Dela Cruz
Mayor

Trenton Brian Conner
Precinct 6-Representative

MESSAGE FROM THE TINIAN REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES

The Tinian Republican party candidates recognize our obligation to the entire Commonwealth for its support in the birth of the Tinian casino gaming industry. If elected, we pledge to work aggressively toward the maximum development of the Tinian casino gaming industry, while adhering earnestly to the rules and regulations established and managed by the Tinian Gaming Control Commission. To support the gaming industry, we will see to it that Tinian CIP projects are properly completed. We further pledge to properly manage the revenues that the gaming industry pays into the Tinian Municipal Fund.

We have a vision of Tinian as a revenue generating center for the entire Commonwealth. With full support of Heinz and Arnold as Governor and Lt. Governor, we can implement the actions that will turn this vision into reality. We can do it! Yes, we can!

Please Join Us!

TINIAN REPUBLICAN PARTY UNITY RALLY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 6:00PM • TINIAN GOP HEADQUARTERS

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Heinz & Arnold

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Former Wyo. governor, US Sen. Clifford Hansen dies

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Clifford Hansen, a former Wyoming governor and the nation's oldest former member of the U.S. Senate, died Tuesday night at his home in Jackson, his son said. He was 97. Hansen suffered from ailments including respiratory problems and had returned home Monday after hospital treatment for a broken pelvis, according to his son, Peter Hansen. Peter Hansen said his father wanted to be remembered for having been married to his wife, Martha, for 75 years. The couple celebrated their anniversary Sept. 24.

Senate OKs transfer of Gitmo prisoners for trials

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama won a modest victory Tuesday in his continuing effort to close the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, allowing the government to continue to transfer detainees at the facility to the U.S. to be prosecuted. The plan to permit terrorist suspects held at the facility to be shipped to U.S. soil to face trial passed the Senate by a 79-19 vote as part of a larger $44.1 billion budget bill for the Homeland Security Department. The measure already passed by the House now goes to Obama for his signature. The Guantanamo provision generally tracks restrictions already in place that block release of detainees in the U.S., but permits them to be tried here.

Alien Halloween costume spooks immigrants

MIAMI (AP)—A Halloween costume that depicts a space creature in orange prison garb emblazoned with the words "illegal alien" is reigniting debate over a long-used term based on the U.S. government's designation of all foreigners as aliens. The dispute has immigrant advocates calling on retailers to pull the costume from its shelves, while a group that supports strict immigration laws say it's all a to-do over nothing, with freedom of speech being turned upside down by political correctness. Since Friday, when the Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights in Los Angeles first raised the issue, companies including Target, Walgreens and eBay have removed the costume from their inventory. Still, many local retailers continue to stock the costume that also comes with a "green" card—which technically makes the alien legal.

Source: House Dems trim health bill to $871B

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats are aiming to scale back the cost of their health care bill to well below President Barack Obama's preferred price tag by giving the government a strong hand in selling insurance in competition with the private market.

Obama has sought to spend no more than $900 billion over a 10-year period. The initial cost of the House bill was more than $1 trillion. On Tuesday, House Democratic leaders received a new cost estimate of $871 billion from congressional budget umpires who measured a robust version of a so-called public option for health insurance, according to a Democratic aide.

The figures were preliminary because no final decision on the design of the public plan had been made, said the aide, who requested anonymity in discussing the bill because the deliberations were private.

House Democrats worked on their legislation as senior Senate Democrats signaled they intend to try to strip the insurance industry of its exemption from antitrust laws as part of an upcoming debate over health care.

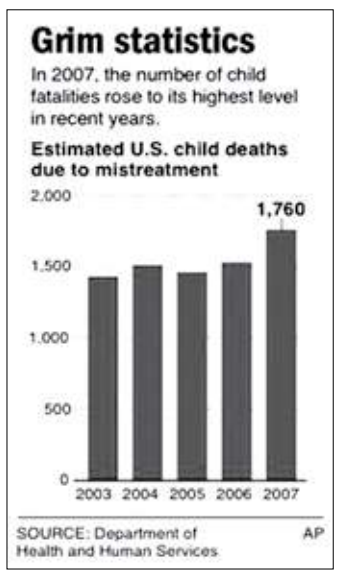
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, announced plans to hold a news conference on the issue Wednesday along with Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Congress pressed to act to curb child-abuse deaths

NEW YORK (AP)—Armed with grim statistics, experts and activists are mobilizing this week to demand expanded federal efforts—including more money and tougher oversight—to reverse a recent rise in the number of children dying from abuse and neglect.

ON THE NET:
Every Child Matters:
http://www.everychildmatters.org/

Child-welfare advocates gathering for a rally and conference in Washington say America should be embarrassed to have a child-abuse death rate far higher than other wealthy democracies. They cite the latest federal figures showing that an estimated 1,760 U.S. children died from abuse and neglect in 2007 - up 35 percent from 2001.



"Child abuse and neglect are national problems that require national solutions," said Michael Petit, president of the Every Child Matters Education Fund. "That means federal lawmakers must work with states to address what causes it, be more consistent in how data about it are shared, and increase support for the agencies that work to stop it."

The recession is inflicting a further hit, with many states imposing budget cuts that affect child welfare programs. Abuse deaths are up sharply in some areas—authorities in Nevada's Clark County, home to Las Vegas, have tallied 37 abuse deaths so far this year, compared to 18 in all of 2008.

Every Child Matters is releasing a report Wednesday, a day ahead of the two-day child abuse conference, contending that inadequate resources are stretching state child-protection agencies too thin to properly serve at-risk children and their families.

FAA investigating Colo. balloon flight

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration has opened its own investigation into the 50-mile flight of the helium balloon that briefly delayed flights at Denver International Airport after a couple reported that their 6-year-old son may have been on board, an official said Tuesday.

FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said the agency investigates civil allegations rather than criminal ones. He declined to provide details on the nature of the FAA probe or its possible outcome.

Larimer County Sheriff Jim Alderden has said investigators believe amateur storm chasers Richard and Mayumi Heene called 911 Thursday saying they thought their son, Falcon, was aboard the large helium balloon that floated away from their yard in Fort Collins in a bid to get publicity for a reality TV show.

The balloon landed 50 miles away near Denver International Airport. Some flights had to be changed to a different runway for 20 minutes.

Falcon was found safe at home.

Alderden said he is seeking charges against the Heenes including conspiracy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, making a false report to authorities, and attempting to influence a public servant.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-002

Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tank # 106 has been out of operation for more than 2 years while the tank # 105 is still in use.

A mandatory site visit and pre-bid meeting is scheduled for October 19x, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. local time at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10 – 002 – Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Friday, October 30, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed**, upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, **until October 23, 2009**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried our as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, October 22, 2009,** to and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, power Generation Managing Engineer via email at venu@cucgov.net or Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net or Ms. Rebecca Grimes via email at beckyg@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR
Legal Counsel

/s/ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

NMPASI SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is asking the general public for comments about its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2010. The local non-profit organization is applying for grant funds from the U.S **Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA)**. In general, NMPASI proposes through each of its respective applications to carry out the following:

STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2010)

"Attention to and Advancing Advocacy into the New Decade"

GOAL 1: To ensure that individuals with disabilities in institutional and/or community settings (1) are not subject to *abuse/neglect*, (2) are *free from discrimination*, (3) are *provided with an appropriate education*, (4) are provided *appropriate health care services*, and (5) are provided with opportunities to make *informed decisions about their lives as independent, contributing members of the community*.

Priority 1.1: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will provide direct representation for program eligible persons with disabilities by conducting intervention strategies of reported cases of abuse and/or neglect to include, but not be limited to, short-term assistance, investigations, technical assistance, administrative remedies, negotiation /mediation, and/or legal remedies;

Priority 1.2: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will *deliver and ensure protection and advocacy services to unserved and underserved* individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

Priority 1.3: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will conduct and/or facilitate trainings related to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities, to people with disabilities, their families and/or other members of the community;

Priority 1.4: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will disseminate information relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities to the community at large via local media and/or other mediums for information dissemination;

Priority 1.5: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will provide Information & Referral and/or Technical Assistance to interested individuals about issues relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities in institutional and/or community settings; and

Priority 1.6: In fiscal year 2010, NMPASI personnel will receive training and education in order *to increase and improve the quality* of protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

For comments, please call the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] or 235-7275 [fax] or 235-7278 [tty] or contact us via the internet at www.nmpasi.com

World

Typhoon slows, may skirt RP or Taiwan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Authorities distributed canned goods and rescue boats and kept helicopters on standby as Typhoon Lupit slowed to a crawl along a course that forecasters said might hit the northern Philippines by Friday or veer toward Taiwan.

The government is determined to allow "zero casualties" for this typhoon, following two back-to-back storms in the past month that killed more than 850 people, National Disaster Coordinating Council spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said Wednesday.

For the past week, army troops and disaster-relief officials have ferried tons of canned food and clothes and moved rubber boats and helicopters along the coast and inland mountains devastated by mudslides in the earlier storms.

Selective evacuations from danger zones—low-lying areas, cliffs and mountain slopes—had begun, he said, while the coast guard grounded vessels after the weather bureau warned of an 8-foot (2.4-meter) wave surge along the beaches of northeastern Cagayan and Isabela provinces.

Schools in the provinces were closed.

Lupit—a Filipino word for cruel—was spinning toward the northern Philippines with winds of 108 miles (175 kilometers) per hour and gusts of up to 130 mph (210 kph). It had been projected to make landfall in Cagayan on Thursday, but slowed down and may hit shore by Friday "or change course slightly and head for Taiwan," said the head of the weather bureau, Prisco Nilo.

The storm is more powerful than Ketsana, which unleashed heavy downpour and the worst flooding in 40 years and around the capital Manila on Sept. 26, killing 420 people, and the subsequent Typhoon Parma, which left 438 dead.

The homes of 7 million people were flooded and thousands remain in evacuation centers as the massive cleanup and rebuilding had only started.

US report details lapses in deadly Iraq shooting

BAGHDAD (AP)—The soldier at the center of the military's worst soldier-on-soldier violence in six years had gone to four counseling sessions. His rifle had been disabled out of fear for his safety. He'd even asked military police to take him into custody, saying "I'm done."

Despite these warnings, a military investigation found that he still managed to steal an automatic weapon and kill five people at a base counseling center.

A report from the investigation concluded that while the soldier had received assistance, there were key lapses in how the military monitored him and how authorities responded once the shooting began at Camp Liberty, a sprawling base on the edge of Baghdad.

Sgt. John M. Russell, 44, who was taken into custody and faces five murder counts, is the only person charged in the shootings. The incident has highlighted the issue of combat stress as troops increasingly serve multiple combat tours because the nation's volunteer army is stretched thin by two long-running wars.

The 325-page report, released Friday and obtained by The Associated Press Tuesday, includes detailed witness statements and describes the unraveling of a soldier less than two months before the end of his third deployment.

While all the names, including Russell's have been removed from the report, it refers to the person taken into custody as well as his unit, the 54th Engineer Battalion.

Israeli hardens opposition to war crimes report

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel hardened its opposition Tuesday to international calls for an independent inquiry into its fierce offensive against Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip last winter, saying it would urge the U.S. to prevent the issue from advancing at the United Nations.

The decision came at a special Cabinet meeting called to discuss a U.N. report that has accused Israel and Palestinian militants of committing war crimes during the three-week operation. The report, which was adopted by the U.N. Human Rights Council last week, recommends war crimes proceedings if the sides do not conduct credible independent investigations into their actions.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak, a fierce critic of the report, blocked a planned discussion Tuesday on whether to launch an investigation.

"There is no need for a committee of inquiry," said Barak, according to a statement from his office. "The Israeli military knows to examine itself better than anyone else," said Barak, himself a former military chief.

Instead, Cabinet ministers established a special lobbying team that will urge the U.S. to use its veto power in the Security Council to prevent legal action against Israelis, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

"Our struggle is to delegitimize the continuing attempt to delegitimize the state of Israel," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the meeting, according to his office. "The most important sphere we need to work in is the sphere of public opinion in the democratic world."

WORLD BRIEFS

Afghan president's rival accepts run-off

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai's chief political rival is agreeing to run in the Nov. 7 run-off election and says he'll be ready. Abdullah Abdullah told reporters Wednesday that he telephoned Karzai to thank him for agreeing to a second round ballot. It was Abdulllah's first public comment since Karzai bowed to U.S. and international pressure and accepted findings of a U.N.-backed panel that there had been massive fraud on his behalf in the Aug. 20 vote. Those findings showed Karzai failed to win the 50 percent required to avoid a run-off.

Iranian-American academic gets 12 years in unrest

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran ignored appeals by Hillary Rodham Clinton and even rock star Sting and sentenced an Iranian-American academic to 12 years in prison Tuesday for his alleged role in anti-government protests after the country's disputed presidential election. The sentence for Kian Tajbakhsh was the longest prison term yet in a mass trial of more than 100 opposition figures, activists and journalists in the postelection turmoil. At the same time, Iran allowed another defendant to leave the country—Canadian-Iranian Maziar Bahari, a Newsweek journalist arrested in the same crackdown who had been freed on bail over the weekend.

Vatican seeks to lure disaffected Anglicans

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican is making it easier for Anglicans to convert to Roman Catholicism—a surprise move designed to entice traditionalists opposed to women priests, openly gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions. The decision, reached in secret by a small cadre of Vatican officials, was sure to add to the problems of the 77-million-strong Anglican Communion as it seeks to deal with deep doctrinal divisions that threaten a permanent schism among its faithful. The change means conservative Anglicans from around the world will be able to join the Catholic Church while retaining aspects of their Anglican liturgy and identity, including married priests. Until now, disaffected Anglicans had joined the church primarily on a case by case basis.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

PRINIPONEN ATKILON TANU PUBLIKU

Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku giya Chalan Kanoa Tanu Numeru 014 H 01, poku mas o`menos Kiñientus Ochentai Ochu (588) metru kuatdrao.

Maseha haye libre muna` halom opiñion pot este na priniponen usun tanu publiku. Siña muna` halom hau sentimientu guato gi kabesanten tanu publiku gi maseha manu na offisinan tanu entre Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Uttimu haane pot nina` halom opiñion i Nobembre dia 2, 2009.

I para u inatkila este na lugat i kompanian Mike's Manufacturing, Inc., kompania guine giya Marianas. I umiluluye este na kuetpon kompania i sigiente siha: Ji Young Shin, Eun Hie Shin, yan Bo Ok Shin. I offisiat siha: Eun Hie Shin, presidente; So Young Shin-Thouvenin, segundu presidente; Bo Ok Shin, sekretariu/tresurariu.

I man-atkikila para u usa i lugat para sagan kareta yan lokue sumasaonao ayo na fasilidat i humahatme gi tanu publiku. Este na atkilon si Señor Chang Wang Jang i munigosiu yan sumera i kontrata.

I tetminon este na kontrata para bente siñku años (25 years) ya libre lokue i umatkikila umekstende para talu kinse años (15 years) na tiempu.

I atkilon gaige gi monhayan na ripot mafananaan "appraisal", (ininan yan inestudian kuantu baliña i tanu publiku) ni para uma-atkila. I depattamienton tanu taya ha resibi otro propositu pot uson este na tanu publiku. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan atkilon siña machule' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo(2nd) bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo(2nd) bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luta; pat i primet(1st) pisu gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya' na tinahguen propositu siha para i atkilon suheton tåno' pupbliku giya Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

ARONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALAWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer Toulap ekke isisiwow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eew falaweer toulap mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng, Marianas.

Toulap kka eyoor mafiyeer reel pomwol akkiloon yeel rebwe afangalong me bwal sángi Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, arong yeel ebwe akkatéwow.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falaweer toulap ye ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 014 H 01, ebwe yoor 588 sq meters, e lapeló ngáre e ghittiw, elo Elal Ghaloowa Seipél. Tilighiyal bwuley yeel elo Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer toulap ngáre óubwe amweri.

ii. Schóóy Akkiloon nge Mike's Manufacturing, Inc. Corporationul CNMI. Board of Directors llól Corporation yeel nge Ji Young Shin, EUN Hie Shin me Bo Ok Shin.

Samwoolul Cooporation yeel nge Eun Hie Shin, Arúschayúl So Young Shin – Thouvenin. Secretary me Treasurer nge Bo Ok Shin.

iii. Pomwol akkiloon yeel nge sángi yaal aweewe Mr. Chang Whan Jang.

iv. Schóóy akkiloon ebwe yááyá bwuley reel parkingil ghareeta me encroaching building structure.

Tool pomwol akkiloon yeel nge 25 ráágh, me emmwel ebwe bwal sóbwusóbw ngáli 15 ráágh.

Pomwol akkiloonul llól ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (appraisal value) me bwal millikka e akkayú llól bwuley.

v. Pomwol Akkiloon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer Toulap, 2nd floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg. Dandan, Seipél, 2nd floor Bank of Saipan Commercial Bldg, Luuta, me ngáre 1st floor Kings Commercial Bldg. Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ese yoor bwal eew pomwol akkiloon Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer Toulap e Amwuschi bwe iye schagh elo Elal Ghaloowa,Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer Toulap ebwe bwughi aghiyágh, Mángemáng me aingiing mereer schóókka re tipeli wóól me ngáre mmwal Ariyamoy 2, 2009, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falaweer Toulap mewóól Seipél, Tchúlúyól me Luuta.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 014 H 01, containing an area of approximately 588 square meters, more or less, situated in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Mike's Manufacturing, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ji Young Shin, Eun Hie Shin, and Bo Ok Shin.

The President of the Corporation is Eun Hie Shin. The Vice President is So Young Shin-Thouvenin. The Secretary and Treasurer is Bo Ok Shin.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Chang Whan Jang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of maintaining vehicular parking space and an encroaching commercial building structure.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 2, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Environment

NMI to join global rally for climate change action

On October 24, millions of people around the world—including those from the Commonwealth—will come together to urge world leaders to support a clear solution to the climate change crisis: reduce the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million.

The international day of action, organized by the 350.org campaign, is expected to comprise more than 3,000 simultaneous events in more than 170 countries. Organizations and agencies across the CNMI will take part in this event on Saturday at 9am.

Scheduled events include:

■ The entire community is invited to Mt. Carmel Cathedral church to gather on the church lawn for a 350 photo in recognition of the issue of climate change. (Contact: Fran Castro, 664-8525)

■ The Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management Office are organizing a 350 photo during the Green Business Initiative Eco-bag giveaway at Payless Market—a monthly event to promote reducing the use of plastic bags. (Contact: Lisa H. Eller, 664-8500)

■ The CNMI Marine Monitoring Team is organizing a 350 photo at one of several coral bleaching sites.

■ Saipan Fatuul Canoe Club is organizing a 350 photo with paddlers at the Micronesian Cup Competition. (Contact Olivia Tebuteb, 664-8500)

From capitol cities to the melting slopes of Mount Everest, even underwater on dying coral reefs—people will hold rallies aimed at focusing attention on the 350 target. Highlights include over 200 events across China; major rallies at iconic landmarks like the Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu, the Great Barrier Reef; 350 scuba divers holding an underwater protest in the Maldives; and 350 Masaii children hosting a traditional dance on their parched fields in Kenya.

Photos from the rallies will be broadcasted on giant screens at a culminating event in Times Square, New York City, at 3:50pm local time and shared in an online slideshow at the 350.org website. ***(PR)***

Green Business Initiative inspires people to 'bring their own bags'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the goals of the Green Business Initiative is to help reduce the amount of plastic grocery bags that end up in the ocean by promoting the long-term use of reusable (eco) bags in the community.

As part of the Green Business Initiative—a campaign to inspire environmentally friendly habits among businesses and consumers—the Division of Environmental Quality is coordinating another reusable (eco) bag giveaway.

The next giveaway and outreach event is scheduled this Saturday, Oct. 24, at Payless Supermarket starting at 9am, while supplies last.

The Green Business Initiative aims to promote greener choices, habits, and lifestyles. One of its goals is to help reduce the amount of plastic grocery bags that end up in the ocean by promoting the long-term use of reusable (eco) bags in the community.

The Initiative also seeks to partner with local stores and shops to put eco-friendly items on the shelves, such as non-toxic household cleaners, phosphorus-free laundry detergent, and biodegradable paper products. This green movement aims to raise awareness of the various health and environmental dangers associated with everyday household products. ***(PR)***

CORAL OUTREACH

Brooke Nevitt of the Coastal Resources Management Office and Olivia Tebuteb and Lisa Huynh Eller of the Division of Environmental Quality educated children at the 2009 Rota Fiesta on Oct. 10-11, 2009. Topics included coral reefs, marine protected areas, marine debris, nonpoint source pollution and watersheds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Group wants 83 coral species listed as endangered

HONOLULU (AP) — Environmental activists are petitioning the U.S. government to put 83 coral species on the endangered species list.

They say global warming and ocean acidification are threatening the corals with extinction.

The Center for Biological Diversity said Tuesday that the coral species in question are found in Hawaii, Florida and U.S. territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration must respond to the group's petition within 90 days and decide within a year whether listings are warranted.

Warm ocean temperatures can cause corals to expel algae they rely on for growth, resulting in what's called bleaching.

Bleaching episodes can kill coral if they occur often and last for long periods.

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Where The Wild Things Are

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Katherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG

Synopsis
The adventures of a young boy named Max who, after being sent to bed for misbehaving, imagines that he sails away to where the wild things are. Max is loved by the wild creatures who make him their King, though he soon longs to be back home with his family.

Law Abiding Citizen

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Jamie Foxx, Gerald Butler
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Clyde Shelton is an upstanding family man whose wife and daughter are brutally murdered during a home invasion. When the killers are caught, Nick Rice, a hotshot young Philadelphia prosecutor, is assigned to the case. Over his objections, Nick is forced by his boss to offer one of the suspects a light sentence in exchange for testifying against his accomplice. Fast forward ten years. The man who got away with murder is found dead and Clyde Shelton coolly admits his guilt.

The Stepfather

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Dyland Walsh, Sela Ward
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

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The Informant

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Matt Damon, Scott Bakula
Spy, Black Comedy • Rated R

I Can Do Bad All By Myself

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Fame

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:05	

Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG

Surrogates

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Oscars tap studio vet Mechanic, director Shankman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Hairspray" director Adam Shankman and former 20th Century Fox studio boss Bill Mechanic have been named producers of the Academy Awards, saying they hope to inject more fun and restore TV ratings glory to Hollywood's biggest party.

Tuesday's announcement marked the second year in a row that organizers have picked a pair of rookie Oscar producers to oversee the show. Last season's Oscars were produced by filmmakers Bill Condon and Laurence Mark.

Oscar organizers are trying to put more razzle-dazzle into the show, whose TV ratings generally have declined over the last two decades. Instead of the usual standup comic, the Oscars called on song-and-dance man Hugh Jackman to host the show this past year.

Mechanic and Shankman said they plan to build on the changes Condon and Mark brought to February's Oscars, which tinkered with the way awards were presented and featured Broadway-style musical interludes.

Shankman

"We're hoping to bring it the highest ratings in years, and we're hoping every academy member thinks it's the best show in years," said Mechanic, whose tenure at Fox included a co-production with Paramount on blockbuster Oscar champ "Titanic" from 1997, when the awards had their all-time best TV audience.

Some years, the Oscars have dragged on for more than four hours, resembling a ponderous exercise in self-worship by Hollywood royalty. Shankman and Mechanic said they want to deliver a show that plays to mainstream audiences that have been relying on big studio flicks for an emotional lift during economic hard times.

"I personally want to kick up the funny a little bit," Shankman said. "Movies are an invaluable source of entertainment during a very tough time in our country's history. Since entertainment is what we're selling, we want to celebrate that aspect and not just have it be that we're sitting around congratulating ourselves and patting ourselves on the back."

Scheduled for March 7, the Oscars already have undergone a major makeover. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences moved its honorary Oscars, often a long-winded affair that bogs down the ceremony, to a separate event in November.

And in the biggest change in decades, the academy doubled the number of best-picture nominees from five to 10. Academy overseers hope that might open the top category to a wider range of films, including commercial pictures that might draw in more TV viewers.

While Mechanic and Shankman said that could bring more critical respect to big box-office films, the best-picture choices are in the hands of the academy's roughly 6,000 voting members. "Since we're not picking the movies, we'll deal with whatever deck we're dealt," Mechanic said.

Still to come is selecting the Oscar host, a decision Mechanic and Shankman will make in consultation with the academy and ABC, which broadcasts the Oscars.

Nature calls, standup title eludes Dave Chappelle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Chappelle could be holding Hollywood's comedy endurance record if he'd only been able to hold something else.

The comic, who famously walked away from a $50 million deal four years ago to continue his Comedy Central TV show, was on stage at the Laugh Factory on Sunday, seemingly on his way to setting the club's endurance record for continuous standup comedy.

Chappelle

Butthen, five hours into his routine, he walked away to go to the bathroom and was disqualified, said club owner Jamie Masada.

The audience wasn't happy, Masada said, but he insisted that rules are rules where endurance comedy is concerned.

"There are only two rules," Masada said Tuesday. "You have to continuously tell jokes that are funny and you can't leave the stage, even to go to the bathroom."

The result: the seven-hour, 34-minute marathon performance that Dane Cook turned in last year stands as the club's record.

The late Richard Pryor set the original record, two hours and 41 minutes, in 1980. Cook broke it 27 years later with a three-hour, 50-minute set.

Chappelle raised the bar to six hours, seven minutes before Cook took the record back last year.

Another 'Dancing with the Stars' celebrity sinks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Natalie Coughlin won't be going for the gold on "Dancing with the Stars."

The Olympic swimmer and her professional partner, Alec Mazo, were eliminated Tuesday from ABC's popular dancing competition. The pair received a total score of 22 out of 30 from the show's judges for their paso doble Monday. After viewer votes were combined with the judges' scores, the 27-year-old Olympic gold medalist was eliminated from the show.

"I guess I didn't show it, how much I loved it," said Coughlin, "but I really did, and I'm sorry."

Before Coughlin's dismissal, the show's 16 professional dancers honored the late Michael Jackson with a performance fusing classic ballroom and Latin styles set to "I Want You Back," "Man In The Mirror" and "Thriller." Jackson family members including Katherine, La Toya and Jermaine Jackson watched the tribute from the front row in the ballroom.

"He's just an inspiration to all of us," said professional dancer Mark Ballas.

The nine remaining celebrity contestants competing for the "Dancing with the Stars" mirrorball trophy are entertainer Donny Osmond, actress Melissa Joan Hart, model Joanna Krupa, professional snowboarder Louie Vito, former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin, singers Mya and Aaron Carter and TV personalities Mark Dacascos and Kelly Osbourne.

AP

In this Monday Oct. 19, 2009 photo provided by ABC, Nathalie Coughlin, left, and Alec Mazo perform on "Dancing with the Stars" in Los Angeles.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Rihanna releases new single; album due out in Nov.

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna is exposing her fans to more than her music with her new single, "Russian Roulette." The singer is featured nearly topless on artwork for the song, covered only by what looks to be barbed wire. The photo fits the apparent theme for her new album, "Rated R," which is due out Nov. 23. It will be her first CD since 2007's "Good Girl Gone Bad," which went multiplatinum. It will also be her first solo single since she was attacked by ex-boyfriend Chris Brown. "Russian Roulette" will debut Tuesday on Rihanna's Web site.

Spears, photographer settle suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Britney Spears and a photographer whose foot she ran over have settled a lawsuit. Ricardo Mendoza sued the pop singer in May, accusing her of assault, battery and negligently driving her car when she ran over his foot in Beverly Hills in October 2007. Court records filed in Los Angeles show a settlement notice was filed on Monday. The records do not disclose the terms of the agreement. TMZ, who employed Mendoza at the time, auctioned his tire-stained sock and donated the proceeds to charity. The incident happened during a turbulent period for Spears, who hours earlier had lost custody of her two sons. She now has the No. 1 song on Billboard's charts with her single "3" and has since regained visitation rights.

Chris Brown embarks on 'Fan Appreciation' tour

NEW YORK (AP)—It's safe to say Chris Brown does not have as many fans as he did before he attacked Rihanna. But he still has some, and he's going on tour to thank them next month. The singer is kicking off his "Fan Appreciation" tour in Houston on Nov. 14. The venues are small, but a statement from his record company says it's to keep an "intimate" setting. A portion of tour proceeds are going to charities. Brown, 20, was sentenced in August to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic violence counseling for the February attack on Rihanna. He's due to perform at his first concert since the attack in New Jersey next week, and has a new song, "I Can Transform Ya."

Workers must speak with one voice about disruptive woman

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I work in a call center with 35 other workers. Recently our supervisor hired a woman who is mentally ill. We acknowledge that she has a right to work and, for the most part, she appears to be capable.

The problem is she hears "voices" speaking to her and often responds to them. Other times she "hears" co-workers seated behind her plotting to kill her, which, of course, is not true. She disrupts those around her by constantly asking if they can hear what others are saying about her and what she should do about it.

We have spoken to our supervisor about our concerns. His answer is, "Just be quiet and it will be OK." We don't dislike her—in fact, we're sympathetic—but we resent the position we have been placed in. None of us have been trained to deal with mental health issues. Have you any suggestions on how to handle this?

UNEASY IN OHIO

DEAR UNEASY: Your supervisor is mistaken. Just being quiet is not the answer because the voices the woman is hearing are in her head. She's acting this way because she has gone off her medication.

This may be a workplace safety issue. Therefore, you and your co-workers must insist that the supervisor take action to ensure that she's not posing a threat to all of you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Would it be inappropriate or tacky if I had a mother/daughter dance at my daughter's wedding? I know it's a father/daughter tradition, and my husband will obviously have his dance with her, but I'd like to have a shot at it, too.

My reason is purely selfish. Having lost my son two years ago, I will never experience the mother/son dance we were supposed to share at his wedding the year he died.

Is this crazy? Horribly inappropriate? Am I being too selfish?

SENTIMENTAL IN YONKERS

DEAR SENTIMENTAL: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your son. The mother/daughter dance is something you need to discuss with your daughter and her fiance. What you have in mind is unusual. However, it would be selfish only if you were to pressure your daughter into it over her objections.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am extremely thin and have struggled for years with eating disorders and an unhealthy relationship with food. It's difficult for me to go out with family and friends because everyone watches me—from what I order to how much I consume—and comments on it. If they decide I haven't eaten enough, they make hurtful comments about my weight.

What I need people to understand is that it is just as hurtful to make fun of someone who is thin by calling him names such as "Stick" or "Bean Pole" as it is to mock a fat person.

Some of us are thin because we are ill, whether it is physically or emotionally. Making fun of us is tasteless, hurtful and unhelpful.

ROBERT IN N.Y.C.

DEAR ROBERT: I'm glad you wrote, because your letter provides me with the opening to remind my readers that joking about someone's appearance isn't clever or funny. It's cruel. While the target may take those comments with apparent good humor, no one likes to be ridiculed. And frankly, when it happens, it demeans the speaker more than the person at which it is aimed.

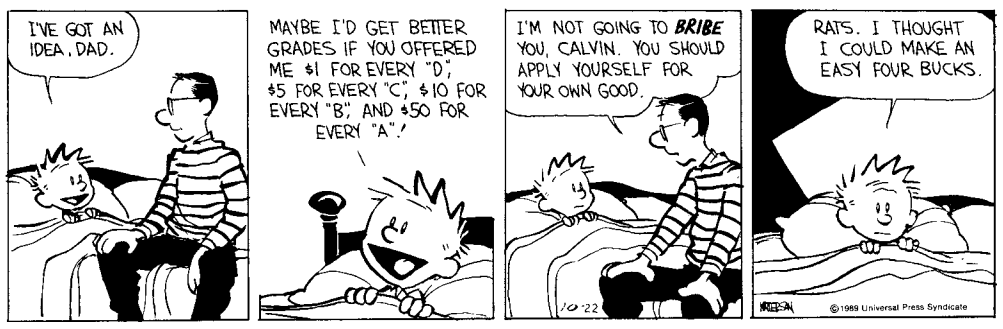
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT AN IDEA, DAD.
MAYBE I'D GET BETTER GRADES IF YOU OFFERED ME $1 FOR EVERY "D", $5 FOR EVERY "C", $10 FOR EVERY "B", AND $50 FOR EVERY "A"!
I'M NOT GOING TO BRIBE YOU, CALVIN. YOU SHOULD APPLY YOURSELF FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
RATS. I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE AN EASY FOUR BUCKS.
10-22
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I CAN'T GO OUT TONIGHT, LIZ... I HAVE A TERRIBLE COLD
JIM DAVIS 10-22
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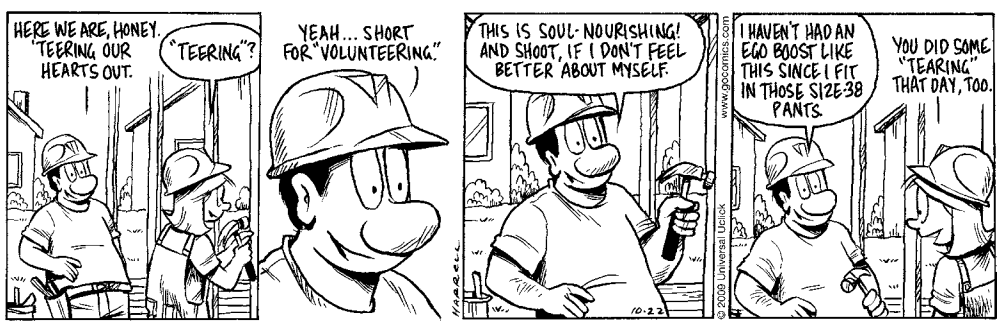
www.garfield.com
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. GARFIELD'S TAKING GOOD CARE OF ME...
AS IN NOT!
CAN'T YOU BREATHE IN THE OTHER DIRECTION?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE WE ARE, HONEY. TEERING OUR HEARTS OUT.
"TEERING"?
YEAH... SHORT FOR "VOLUNTEERING."
THIS IS SOUL-NOURISHING! AND SHOOT, IF I DON'T FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF.
I HAVEN'T HAD AN EGO BOOST LIKE THIS SINCE I FIT IN THOSE SIZE 38 PANTS.
YOU DID SOME "TEARING" THAT DAY, TOO.
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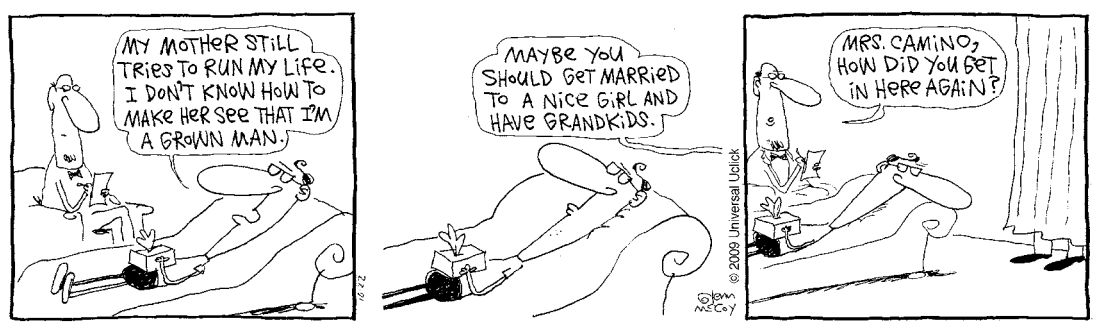
10-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY MOTHER STILL TRIES TO RUN MY LIFE. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE HER SEE THAT I'M A GROWN MAN.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET MARRIED TO A NICE GIRL AND HAVE GRANDKIDS.
MRS. CAMINO, HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE AGAIN?
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

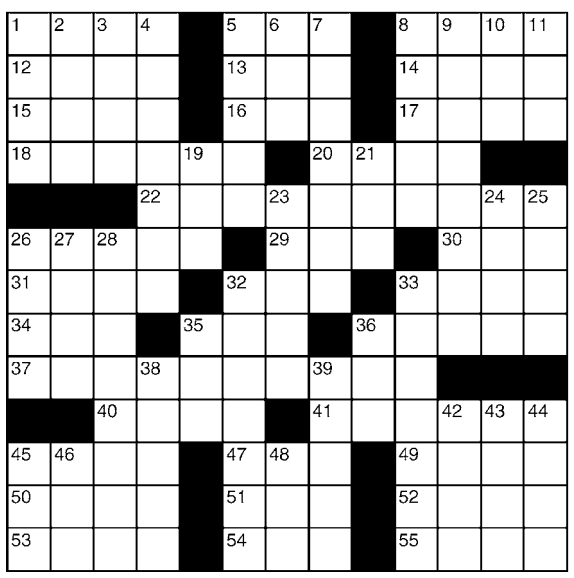
ACROSS
1 Boutique
5 Suitcase
8 Unuttered "alas"
12 Lawrence Berra
13 Id counterpart
14 Dandling site
15 Dealer's foe
16 Scarlet
17 Misfortunes
18 Nativity setup
20 Get steamed up
22 E.T.'s venue
26 Grown-up
29 Churchill's gesture
30 Needlefish
31 "And — bed": Pepys
32 Plaything
33 Mine, in part
34 Dead heat
35 Stir-fry pan
36 Clumsy
37 Nirvana, maybe
40 "Simon —"
41 Method
45 Use a wooden spoon
47 Vanna's cohort
49 Matador's foe
50 War, to Gen. Sherman
51 Altar affirmative
52 Once more, in the Ozarks
53 Simple
54 Neither mate
55 Poolroom triangle

DOWN
1 Harmonization
2 Frost
3 Shrek is one
4 Small flute
5 Jaunty chapeau
6 Time of your life?
7 Arthur of old TV
8 Cut corners
9 Collaborating (with)
10 Hairspray alternative
11 Guys
19 Shack
21 Exploit
23 Bring out
24 Kvetch
25 Formerly, formerly
26 Italian wine region
27 Slay
28 Knife and fork, e.g.
32 Tennis tactic
33 Low-rated, as a hotel or a movie
35 Distort
36 Unfriendly
38 Way before deadline
39 Nancy, the first woman in Parliament
42 Frat-party garb
43 Idle of Monty Python
44 Tony Shalhoub series
45 The woman
46 Afternoon affair
48 Commotion

Solution time: 25 mins.

		M	O	B			S	E	C			
	C	A	V	E		T	I	T	H	E		
T	O	P	A	Z		A	G	H	A	S	T	
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	H	O	P	P	E	R
O	N	E		Q	U	I	T	S		R	A	N
			N	U	L	L			M	I	C	A
	S	A	T	E	D		L	O	A	T	H	
R	U	T	H			W	A	V	Y			
E	S	T		N	A	I	V	E		R	A	P
P	H	I	L	I	P	M	A	R	L	O	W	E
	I	C	E	C	A	P		A	U	G	E	R
		A	V	E	R	S		C	R	U	D	
			I	R	T			T	E	E		

Yesterday's answer 10-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Lipnicki, 19; Zac Hanson, 24; Shaggy, 41; Jeff Goldblum, 57

Happy Birthday: Focus on moving forward. It's important not to become too emotional if you want to get others to do things your way. Choose your battles wisely and use past experience and connections to help you get ahead now. A new look at an old idea will raise some interest. Your numbers are 2, 5, 12, 15, 21, 33, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You need to get a different perspective on life. A trip can open your eyes to new beginnings and possibilities. A unique partnership can develop if you both have the same motives. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone from your past will be able to help you out now. Don't hesitate to make the first move to reestablish the connection. Keep everything out in the open and you will make a good impression. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Friendship is on the rise. Finish what you start and make sure you get along with the people who can alter your future. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Like it or not, change is heading your way. In the end, you will realize it is good for you and is definitely overdue. Career moves should be put into play and a complete makeover will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can have fun but get your responsibilities out of the way first. Try to mix business with pleasure. An act of kindness will go a long way toward forming a partnership with someone you regard highly. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Separate your personal and business life. If you try to meld the two, you will fall short of your goals in both. Before you make a choice that will alter your routine, consider other ways to get the same results without giving up something you enjoy. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone you network with and admire will offer you a great suggestion that can revolutionize what you are trying to accomplish. A chance to take a pleasure trip or attend an entertaining event will lead to someone who can alter your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You've been juggling way too much for too long. It's time to turn things around and push some of the responsibilities burdening you onto someone else. Put time into achieving greater prosperity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You won't leave much to the imagination if you start to discuss how you feel and what you want to do. Someone is likely to cut you short or talk behind your back. Instead, concentrate on what you can do immediately to feel better about your future. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may be stopped in your tracks if you try to push too much on others. Call on someone from your past and you will stand a better chance of getting the help needed. A career opportunity will require innovation on your part. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A financial move is evident. Look for any opportunity to turn what you have already into something even better. Collect an old debt and it will enable you to finance something you want to do. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone who can make a difference to how far you get may be talking behind your back. Communication and financial matters must be handled with care. Uncertainty regarding your personal life will make you uneasy. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, adventuresome and open-minded. You have vision and creativity. You handle situations courageously and compassionately.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	2							5
					3			2
				7	9			
	9	7						
		1		8		6		
						7	3	
			9	4				
2			1					
6							5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	2	1	8	3	5	4	6
6	5	8	2	7	4	3	9	1
3	1	4	5	9	6	7	2	8
8	3	9	4	1	7	6	5	2
1	4	6	3	2	5	8	7	9
2	7	5	8	6	9	4	1	3
9	6	3	7	5	2	1	8	4
5	2	1	6	4	8	9	3	7
4	8	7	9	3	1	2	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SCHWARTZ'S HEBREW DELICATESSEN **Solution: 8 letters**

P	O	R	T	I	O	N	S	L	I	N	E	U	P	S
S	D	R	H	S	I	W	E	J	W	M	O	I	P	K
A	E	I	D	I	S	H	I	O	G	T	C	R	R	C
N	T	S	L	E	A	N	T	N	N	K	E	A	H	O
D	A	P	O	L	R	N	I	A	L	P	M	A	N	L
W	N	I	N	D	W	G	R	E	A	D	R	W	O	E
I	I	C	D	O	A	U	B	R	N	A	M	A	I	S
C	R	E	D	A	A	T	E	A	C	R	E	R	T	L
H	A	S	P	T	N	D	L	T	A	E	N	D	U	A
E	M	A	S	L	A	A	E	H	M	M	U	S	T	W
S	D	E	M	M	A	R	C	I	W	O	D	N	I	W
M	R	R	E	O	E	T	T	O	U	R	I	S	T	S
E	P	I	C	E	R	A	E	A	T	E	R	Y	S	A
L	T	U	O	E	K	A	T	A	Q	U	A	I	N	T
L	E	G	E	N	D	A	R	Y	U	L	M	A	I	N

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Aging, Aroma, Awards, Canadian, Celebrities, Character, Charm, Coleslaw, Crammed, Dill, Dish, Downtown, Eatery, Institution, Jewish, Landmark, Lean, Legendary, Lineups, Made, Main, Marinated, Meat, Menu, Must, Order, Pickle, Plateau, Portions, Prepared, Quaint, Recipe, Restaurant, Sandwiches, Smell, Soda, Spices, Takeout, Time, Tourists, Window

Yesterday's Answer: Recover

SALE: The topics of 'Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only) payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MARIANAS INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The public is hereby given notice that **ROCHELLE MENDIOLA CAMACHO** is no longer associated with, or authorized to transact business on behalf of Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd. That effective October 6, 2009, Ms. Camacho is no longer serving as bookkeeper for Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd.

Any business or transaction entered into with Rochelle Mendiola Camacho will not be honored by Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd.

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Thyme Plaice

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Find today's solution in this section

Vacancy Announcement
Board of Directors
Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce a board vacancy for the island of Saipan

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Charles P. Reyes Jr., Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2009. For additional information, please contact the Council's Acting Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
1ST Floor Morgen Building, San Jose
P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 235-4401/4402
Fax: (670) 235-4450

NOTICE OF AUCTION
Ref: Lot 011 G 71
Kagman, Saipan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot 011 G 71, located in the village of Kagman III on Agatelang Ave., on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 770 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 03, which was recorded on December 16, 1993, as Document No. 93-4411, at the Land Registry Office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Property Description. Located on the property is a three bedroom, one bathroom, fully concrete house. Amenities include an installed septic tank, an outside porch, and a one car garage. House condition is slightly deteriorated, and repairs to septic system, flooring, and finish work maybe necessary.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, 1st Floor Morgen Building, San Jose, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Condition of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres C/O Marianas Public Land Trust, 1st Floor Morgan Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-235-4401/4402; Fax: 670-235-4450.
3. Deposit; payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; **contact the Marianas Public Land Trust for scheduled viewing and inspection time**. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of October, 2009.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

A-Rod launches Yankees to brink of World Series

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Alex Rodriguez has done something remarkable in every game of his charmed October. CC Sabathia is settling for every time he takes the mound. Together, they've got the New York Yankees within one win of a long-awaited return to the World Series.

Rodriguez homered in the third straight game of his outstanding postseason, Sabathia pitched eight resilient innings of five-hit ball on short rest, and the Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels 10-1 Tuesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the AL championship series.

Rodriguez had three hits and scored three runs, while Melky Cabrera drove in four for the Yankees, who have built a commanding cushion in this once-wild series with power and pitching from their big-name, big-money stars.

"It's the best I've felt all year, no doubt," said Rodriguez, who is 6 for 16 with three homers and five RBIs in the ALCS. "I certainly feel free and liberated. It's the happiest I've been in a long time."

Johnny Damon added a late two-run homer for the Yankees, who could sew up their first trip to the World Series in six years with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night at Angel Stadium. New York's A.J. Burnett faces Angels ace John Lackey.

One day after the Angels handed New York its first playoff loss in an extra-inning thriller, the Yankees calmly asserted control with two early rallies before piling on five runs late—all backed by Sabathia's steady work on three days' rest for his second win of the series.

"This team's good. We have great players, Hall of Fame players," said Sabathia, who has won three of the Yankees' seven playoff games. "We've got all the confidence in the world."

With a two-run homer to left field that silenced an excited Anaheim crowd in the fifth, Rodriguez drove in a run in his eighth straight postseason game, tying the major league record. It was his fifth homer in New York's seven postseason games, matching Reggie Jackson's iconic 1977 effort for the second-most homers in a single playoff year for the Yankees.

AP

The Los Angeles Angels' Jason Bulger, left and the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez react after Rodriguez hit a home run in the fifth inning of Game 4 of the American League Championship baseball series Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, in Anaheim, Calif.

Bernie Williams holds the New York record with six homers in 1996, but that mark seems ripe to be toppled by A-Rod in the first phenomenal postseason for a superstar who mostly sputtered in October until now.

Rodriguez also singled and scored New York's first run in the fourth, and he doubled and scored on an error in the ninth to cap his do-it-all day.

"It's obvious he's brought what he does during the season," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's been as clutch as anybody could have hoped for on their side. He's a heck of a player. He's playing his game right now. We're obviously going to have to do a little better job of making some pitches on him."

After playing 24 innings over 9 1/2 hours and making a coast-to-coast flight over the previous three days, both teams needed a no-nonsense victory. Sabathia came through for the Yankees, providing rest for New York's taxed bullpen while further frustrating Los Angeles' lineup, which is foundering in the playoffs after an outstanding regular season.

"We've still got a little ways to go, but I've been feeling good," Sabathia said. "I never had any doubt about me being able to perform on this stage and to pitch well late in October, but it seems like people did. But I feel great. You know, hopefully I can keep it going."

The Yankees' $161 million lefthander yielded two walks and struck out five, throwing 101 pitches. After he retired Torii Hunter on a weak grounder to end the eighth, thousands of fans stood up and left Angel Stadium, not sticking around for the final demise of their suddenly punchless club.

Kendry Morales homered for the Angels, whose bats have been mostly awful in the ALCS. The club that had nine .300 hitters in its lineup in mid-August is batting .201 in the series, and the Angels managed just one extra-base hit in Game 4.

"We got beat pretty badly tonight, (but) it was one loss. That's it," Scioscia said. "Our guys are confident. There is nobody in that clubhouse that's down. We know where we have to get to, and there's a terrific challenge for us."

Newcomer Scott Kazmir also crumbled in his second straight postseason start for the Angels, allowing six hits and four walks while barely making it through four innings.

After holding the Angels to four hits over eight innings in Game 1, Sabathia pitched on three days' rest for the first time this season—but the workhorse starter is no stranger to extra assignments. He pitched very well on short rest four times for Milwaukee last season while carrying the Brewers into the playoffs, though he struggled once he got there.

Sabathia also would be in position to pitch Game 7 on four days' rest if necessary—but unless the Angels awaken, it's more likely he'll be fresh for the World Series opener next Wednesday at Yankee Stadium.

New York took the series' first two games at home, including a 13-inning thriller in Game 2. Los Angeles won 5-4 in 11 innings in Game 3, overcoming a three-run deficit and blowing a late lead before Jeff Mathis' winning RBI double.

In Game 4, the Yankees finally ended a team-wide slump with runners in scoring position with Cabrera's fourth-inning single, which highlighted a three-run burst that began with Rodriguez's slide home under a tag—and which would have been even bigger if Nick Swisher hadn't been called out on appeal for leaving third base too early to tag up on Damon's fly.

Cabrera's two-run single ended a 3-for-35 skid for New York with runners in scoring position. He later added a two-run double in the ninth.

After Rodriguez homered on reliever Jason Bulger's second pitch in the fifth, Sabathia already had everything he needed.

Kazmir was a strong playoff performer for Tampa Bay last year with a track record of success against the Yankees, and he excelled for Los Angeles down the stretch this season after his arrival from the Rays. But he struggled in his first postseason start for the Angels in Game 3 of the division series in Boston, and he yielded six hits and four walks in Game 4 of the ALCS.

Working incredibly slowly, the lefthander allowed the Yankees' first three leadoff hitters to reach base, but kept New York scoreless until the fourth, when Rodriguez led off with a single. After Jorge Posada laced a double just inside the left-field line, Robinson Cano grounded to second with one out, but Rodriguez slid in underneath Howie Kendrick's high throw to the plate.

Kazmir was chased by slumping Mark Teixeira's leadoff single in the fifth.

Morales was 3 for 24 in the postseason until his drive to center in the fifth.

Rollins coming up big in clutch spots

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—When the bright lights come on, Jimmy Rollins turns into J-Roll.

He is the resident diva on the Philadelphia Phillies. He loves the cameras, but prefers talking after he's finished showering and primping. He's got a big smile, plenty of charisma and a whole lot of swagger.

One more thing, he can flat-out play baseball.

Rollins put the defending champions on the verge of another trip to the World Series by lining a two-out, two-run double off Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton in the ninth inning Monday night. The hit gave the Phillies a 5-4 victory and a 3-1 edge over Los Angeles in the NL championship series.

The Phillies can wrap up their second straight pennant with a win in Game 5 Wednesday night. Cole Hamels, last year's NLCS and World Series MVP, opposes former Phillie Vicente Padilla.

Rollins, the 2007 NL MVP, had a difficult season. But he's coming through in the clutch in the playoffs. That's no surprise for manager Charlie Manuel.

"Jimmy Rollins, the bigger the stage, the better he likes to play," Manuel said. "The more people watching him, he likes the mike, he likes to talk, that's the way he is."

Rollins batted just .250 this year, the second-lowest average in his 10-year career. But the three-time All-Star shortstop still was a run producer out of the leadoff spot. He hit 21 homers, had 77 RBIs, scored 100 runs and stole 31 bases.

Rollins often gets criticized for not being a prototypical leadoff hitter. He swings at the first pitch, doesn't work the count and has a low on-base percentage. But Rollins makes the most of his hits.

And, Rollins is a flawless fielder who has won two straight Gold Glove Awards.

During a June swoon when his average dipped to .211, Rollins was benched four straight games. Manuel thought a few days off could help Rollins regenerate mentally. It worked. Rollins batted .282 with 15 homers and 50 RBIs in the final 87 games.

Manuel has always seemed to push the right buttons with Rollins, even when it's tough love. He yanked him from a game in June 2008 after he failed to run hard on a popup that was dropped. A month later, Manuel benched Rollins for arriving late to the ballpark for an important game against the New York Mets at Shea Stadium.

The two run-ins didn't hurt their relationship. Manuel and Rollins are tight. When the Phillies are batting, Rollins usually stands next to Manuel in the dugout, and the two are constantly chirping and joking with each other.

"I like everything about his personality because he's funny," Manuel said. "He's got a tremendous personality as far as laughter. But at the same time when he goes up to the plate, he goes up there to hit. And believe me, this guy, he's always wanting to be up there at a big moment in the game."

Manuel had a good feeling when Rollins stepped in to face Broxton with the game on the line. In fact, Manuel even predicted Rollins would win it.

"Jim Thome is standing over in the other dugout, and Thome looks over at me, and I motion like that, like he's going to hit one," Manuel said. "Thome was looking at me and he's shaking his head like, 'No.' With Jimmy up there, I liked that moment. I liked the guy hitting."

Rollins was just 3 for 18 in the NLCS before he lined Broxton's 99 mph fastball to the wall in right-center, giving the Phillies their fourth comeback win of the postseason. Rollins played a key role in two other rallies. He hit ninth-inning singles against the Colorado Rockies in victories in Games 3 and 4 of the division series.

"We believe in ourselves. We believe in our ability. We know that there's 27 outs," Rollins said. "Coming to the ninth inning, actually about the seventh inning is actually when we start really getting, I guess, locked in. We've been on the other end of that a number of times this year, so just because you have two strikes and two outs, things can still happen. All it takes is a slip-up of a pitch, one swing of the bat, an error, anything to get the ball rolling."

Rollins' success in the late innings has been overshadowed by Ryan Howard's torrid hitting. Howard has at least one RBI in eight straight postseason games, tying Lou Gehrig's major league record set more than seven decades ago.

Sharing the spotlight is just fine with Rollins. His primary goal is getting another championship ring.

"We understand we still have a job to do," Rollins said. "We look forward to trying to close it out."

Chicago Bears, Cutler agree on extension

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bears and quarterback Jay Cutler have agreed on a two-year contract extension that runs through the 2013 season.

A person familiar with the negotiations said the deal includes approximately $20 million guaranteed and roughly $30 million in new money. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the terms were not released.

"Thanks to the Bears, the McCaskey family and all the Bears fans for the support," Cutler wrote Tuesday night on his Twitter page.

Acquired in a blockbuster trade from Denver in the offseason, the Pro Bowl quarterback has completed 110 of 172 passes with 1,201 yards, 10 touchdowns and seven interceptions while leading Chicago to a 3-2 record. With a 64.0 completion rate and 240.2 yards passing per game, he is on pace to set club single-season records.

AP

Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler (6) throws against the Atlanta Falcons in the second quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009 in Atlanta.

Considered to be one of the Bears' best quarterbacks since Sid Luckman, Cutler got picked off four times in the season-opening loss at Green Bay but has since lived up to his billing. He led the Bears to back-to-back comeback wins over Pittsburgh and Seattle the next two weeks while completing more than 70 percent of his passes and has nine touchdowns with three interceptions over the past four games.

Drafted 11th overall by Denver in 2006, Cutler has thrown for 10,225 yards, 64 touchdowns and 44 interceptions while completing 872 of 1,392 passes.

He made his first Pro Bowl last season while setting a Broncos record with 4,526 yards, but a falling out with new coach Josh McDaniels ultimately led to the trade to Chicago. In return, the Broncos got quarterback Kyle Orton along with two first-round draft picks and a third-rounder.

Cutler's relationship with the Broncos started to sour when they fired Mike Shanahan, and he wasn't happy when his position coach, Jeremy Bates, left for Southern California.

Just when things were starting to smooth out, Cutler found out in late February that the Broncos were trying to trade him to Tampa Bay in a three-way deal that would have sent Matt Cassel from New England to Denver.

Cutler and his agent didn't think McDaniels was up front with them about the trade talks and asked to be dealt; McDaniels, however, insisted he informed Cutler the morning of those discussions.

Either way, the ill will escalated.

Cutler stopped returning calls from the Broncos and they eventually dealt him in April.

In Chicago, there have been some rough moments despite the warm welcome from the fan base.

When he reported to training camp, Cutler and linebacker Brian Urlacher found themselves denying reports of a rift. Devin Hester was also offended by comments Cutler made after the first preseason game, when the receiver failed to break up an interception against Buffalo.

Otherwise, teammates and coaches have staunchly defended Cutler.

Zorn: Campbell will start for Redskins vs Eagles

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Jason Campbell will remain the Washington Redskins starting quarterback.

Coach Jim Zorn said Tuesday on his ESPN980 radio show that he will stick with Campbell for Monday night's game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Campbell was benched at halftime of Sunday's 14-6 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs. Todd Collins played the second half, but neither quarterback was able to mount a touchdown drive against a defense that entered the game ranked last in the NFL.

Zorn said Campbell missed some open receivers against the Chiefs, but added: "I didn't give up on the young man."

Campbell went 9 for 16 for 89 yards and an interception. Collins, making his first appearance since the 2007 season, finished 6 for 14 for 75 yards.

On the season, Campbell has thrown for six touchdowns, six interceptions and has completed 65.6 percent of his passes. His 84.3 quarterback rating ranks 19th in the NFL.

The Redskins also made several roster moves, signing tackle Levi Jones, running back Quinton Ganther and defensive end Renaldo Wynn. They released punter Glenn Pakulak, and running backs Anthony Alridge and Marcus Mason.

Jones is the most notable addition, adding depth to an offensive line missing starters Chris Samuels and Randy Thomas. Jones was the No. 10 overall pick in the 2002 draft and played seven seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals, but he had knee, back and leg problems in recent years and was released in May.

Pakulak punted in the last two games for the Redskins. He subbed for Hunter Smith, who is recovering from a groin injury.

Heat look to surround Dwyane Wade with help from within

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade took an assertive and unusually public stance this offseason, openly imploring the Miami Heat to improve the roster.

His teammates got the message, loud and clear.

It wasn't merely a coincidence that the summer break was practically nonexistent for every Heat player, all of them seeming to log countless hours in the gym and weight room, primarily spurred on by the memory of losing a playoff Game 7 in Atlanta last spring.

So, no, there wasn't a splashy summer acquisition for the Heat. Instead, they tried to improve from within, hoping that's enough to aid the NBA's reigning scoring champion and give Miami a serious chance of improving on last season's 43-39 record, which was good enough to earn the Heat the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. There, they lost to Atlanta in the first round.

"Losing Game 7 in Atlanta last year is something that we all remember and will not forget," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We thought about it all summer long. ... It was about being committed to each other this summer, commit to our conditioning, commit to improving."

While other teams in the East added parts, the Heat decided to make their parts stronger.

It's not like Miami didn't try to make some adds; the Heat lost out on free agent forward Lamar Odom, who decided to stay with the world champion Los Angeles Lakers. The only significant move the Heat ended up making was trading for Quentin Richardson, who figures to be a key part of the rotation whether he's starting or coming off the bench.

And roster continuity, for a team that went from a 15-win club to a 43-win club last year, is a huge plus, the Heat say.

"Our motivation is that people are still counting out the Miami Heat," veteran Miami forward Udonis Haslem said. "From what they read and watching TV, they think that teams are automatically going to be better because of the moves they made. They don't understand the game is played between the lines. So who knows how all these different moves and trades will help these teams?"

Cleveland got Shaquille O'Neal; Miami had Jermaine O'Neal rehabbing more than he ever had in a summer, putting two years of injuries behind him.

Boston got Rasheed Wallace; Miami had Michael Beasley—his offseason workouts not even derailed by a stay in a Houston rehabilitation facility—getting stronger and faster, with eyes on transforming into someone who can play both small and power forward.

Orlando got Vince Carter; Miami had Mario Chalmers, Daequan Cook, James Jones and Dorell Wright in the gym, all getting 10,000 dribbles down and 10,000 shots up over the offseason, trying to find someone who'll take some of the scoring load off of Wade.

"We all know each other personally and on the court, so there's going to be a lot of things better for us," Wade said. "When you've got a new team, you've got to start all over. We're coming in ahead of the curve a little bit, and that's actually a positive."

The schedule could give Miami a chance to build momentum quickly.

Starting with the Oct. 28 opener against the New York Knicks, the Heat begin with eight of their first 10 games at home, although three of those contests are against teams widely picked to be playoff contenders, including Cleveland, Denver and a Washington club that could take huge strides forward this season with a healthy Gilbert Arenas again.

Naturally, everything Miami does starts with Wade, who was as good last year—maybe even better—than he was during the run that carried the Heat to the 2006 NBA title.

He averaged 30.2 points and 7.5 assists last season, and enters this year saying he'd love to get closer to the 10-assist-per-game mark.

"I think we can definitely be better," Wade said.

Either way, it'll be an interesting year in Miami. Wade could become a free agent at season's end, although he says he wants to stay in South Florida regardless. The Heat will have a slew of salary-cap money available for next summer's long-awaited NBA player bonanza, plus potentially two first-round picks as well.

So, no roster reconstruction this summer.

Next summer, that'll change—but that doesn't mean the Heat aren't eyeing another big jump in the standings first.

"We knew in the summertime that there probably wasn't going to be a huge addition," Jermaine O'Neal said. "But do we expect to be better than we were last year? Absolutely, we expect that. And it's going to take guys like myself, D-Wade, UD, Beas, playing at a higher level than we did last year. If we all do our job, I think we're going to be pretty darn good."

NBA BRIEFS

Refs could be back in time for regular season

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA's locked-out referees could be back on the floor in time for the regular season. The league has made a new proposal, and a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press it will be recommended for approval to the referees on Friday. The person, who requested anonymity because the negotiations are ongoing, said it's "highly likely" they'll be on the court for next Tuesday's season opener in Cleveland. The breakthrough in the labor dispute came Tuesday, after a meeting that included commissioner David Stern and referees union negotiator Lamell McMorris—who had both previously withdrawn from the process. "I think it's great," players' association director Billy Hunter said. "We'd welcome them back." Neither the NBA nor the National Basketball Referees Association would comment on the progress in the talks, first reported by ESPN.com. The contract between the league and the union expired Sept. 1 and the sides have been unable to reach a deal, though they were close a couple of times. The league has been using replacements officials in the preseason, and they have been criticized for the high number of fouls called in the games.

Bobcats' Bell could miss most of season with injured left wrist

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Charlotte Bobcats starting shooting guard Raja Bell has a partially torn ligament in his left wrist that could require surgery and sideline him for most of the season. Coach Larry Brown made the announcement after Charlotte's 94-87 exhibition victory over Milwaukee on Tuesday. Brown said Bell's agent has requested a second opinion. Brown said it's possible Bell could get treatment without surgery and return sooner. Bell injured his wrist trying to get a loose ball in Sunday's game against Utah. His loss would be a major blow for the Bobcats, who acquired him from Phoenix last season.

T-Wolves star Jefferson has sore Achilles' tendon

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota's Al Jefferson is still bothered by Achilles' tendinitis. Jefferson did not participate in Tuesday morning's shootaround in Denver, where the Timberwolves were playing an exhibition. Team spokesman Mark Rosenberg says Jefferson is also fighting a cold, unsure if the star forward would suit up against the Nuggets. Jefferson sat out during the fourth quarter Saturday against Milwaukee because of soreness in the tendon, and he didn't practice Monday. Jefferson is coming back from major surgery, after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee last season. The Wolves are also missing their other top big man, Kevin Love, who will need at least six weeks to recover from a broken left hand.

PILCOWA cage meeting tonight

The Philippine Contract Workers Association is calling on all coaches/representatives of participating teams in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League to attend a meeting tonight.

The meeting is set for 6pm at the pavilion across the JP Centre Building in Garapan.

League coordinator Fando Muleta said game schedule, entrance fee, deadline for submission of rosters and waivers, and other matters concerning the competition will be discussed at the meeting.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MIGS' Kae Bernardo, right, goes for a reverse layup against Century Insurance's Jeff Pagarao during their game in the inaugural PILCOWA caging at the JP Centre Basketball Court last year.

The second edition of the PILCOWA caging will kick off on Nov. 8 at the JP Centre Basketball Court. The league will have competitions in the open and masters divisions.

League organizers are hoping to have at least seven teams in the open category and eight in the masters division.

So far, four teams have already confirmed their participation in the open division, while the masters division has lured eight squads. A team from Rollers coach Joe Diaz has expressed an interest to join the open division, according to Muleta.

Games in the PILCOWA caging will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday with teams in the masters division playing in the first game and open division squads squaring off in the second match.

Entrance fee (US$500) and other requirements are due a week before the league starts. In the masters division, teams must submit a proof of age eligibility. The masters division is open only to players in the 37-and-above age group.

The Top 3 teams in all divisions will receive trophies at awards ceremony league, while top individual performers will also be given awards.

This year's defending champion is Diamond Auto Care, which defeated MIGS in the finals in double overtime, 101-99. Sonny Ranola made the winning basket for Diamond, canning a baseline jumper in the dying seconds of the game. Other squads that joined the inaugural PILCOWA caging were Century Insurance, Aon Insurace, C&R Distributor, Olivos, and Pacific Trading Co.

For more information on the PILCOWA caging, contact Muleta at 285-9783. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Typhoon-wary Pacman shifts training to Manila

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines— Reacting to the threat of a brewing typhoon, Manny Pacquiao cut short his training camp in Baguio City and headed for Manila early Monday.

After a few hours' rest, Pacquiao went to the Gerry Peñalosa Boxing Gym at Marketmall in Mandaluyong City and resumed training for his World Boxing Organization welterweight showdown against champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

Assistant trainer Nonoy Neri said Pacquiao did 13 rounds with the mitts and three rounds each shadow boxing and pummeling the heavy bags and speed balls.

To cap his workout supervised by chief trainer Freddie Roach, Pacquiao went through two sets of plyometric exercises designed by conditioning expert Alex Ariza.

The world pound-for-pound king then visited his commercial building in Quiapo, Manila, before calling it a day.

Pacquiao

Training will again hit full blast Tuesday with Pacquiao expected to spar for three rounds each with unbeaten welterweight Shawn Porter, former world champion Jose Luis Castillo and either Urbano Antillon or Danny Escobar.

Team Pacquiao stayed in Baguio, one of several areas devastated by the recent Typhoon "Pepeng", since Sept. 20.

Pacquiao was even able to sneak in a visit to Manila on Oct. 3 to distribute relief goods and hand over his P1 million donation to flood victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy".

Roach, however, doesn't want to take chances with Typhoon "Ramil" due for a landfall eas early as tomorrow night.

Pacquiao is slated to leave for Los Angeles on Oct. 24 to continue his preparations at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. ***(PDI)***

Mepranum to fight in Pacman-Cotto undercard

Filipino fighter Richie Mepranum has been booked to see action on the undercard of the "Firepower" card featuring superstars Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto on November 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

This was confirmed yesterday by Maasin Mayor Jojo Lopez, who manages Mepranum, in a long-distance interview.

"They are still looking for an opponent, but Manny Pacquiao already called me up to tell me everything is set," Lopez said yesterday.

Mepranum will be fighting in the 112-lb division.

Mepranum (21-1-1, 3 KO's) made his Las Vegas debut in December last year underneath the Oscar de la Hoya-Manny Pacquiao superfight also at the MGM, decisioning Cesar Lopez of Mexico.

In June last year, Mepranum took the WBO Oriental flyweight title with a decision win over Juma Fundi in Saranggani, only to be stripped of the title for his failure to defend on time. ***(PDI)***

MIEKO

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doesn't feel any pressure, as she intends not to race against Bucher and company.

"I will race against myself. I am not worried about other pros. It is a great opportunity and experience to race against them, but I will have my own pace. I will concentrate on my race. I trust the training I went through and I am thankful to my coach, Andrew Noble, for helping me prepare for this big event," Carey said.

The lone Saipan bet in the pro division added besides the experience racing against the world's top triathletes, she is also looking forward to developing good relationship with XTERRA World participants.

"It is great and interesting to know that we speak different languages, but we are able to have conversation because we have one thing in common, which is XTERRA. The XTERRA spirit brings people from all over the world together. It is doesn't matter if you are a pro or amateur. We share the game goal, which is to do our best to finish the race," Carey said.

Carey will board a Northwest (Delta) flight for Japan at 3:50pm today and from Japan, she will go to Oahu for a connecting flight to Makena, Maui. She will leave with husband Kevin, who will also compete in the amateur division. Joining the husband and wife tandem is Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona, who is also entered in the amateur division (20-24 age group category).

Carey would like to thank his fellow Saipan triathletes, who are praying for her success and safety in this weekend's race. She also acknowledged the following for supporting her trip to XTERRA World: Island Apparel, Hornet Sports in Guam, Pacific Islands Club, UMDA, Salomon, Joshua Berger, Fred Camacho, Florian Braig, Taga Inc., Expressions, and *Saipan Tribune*.

"Thank you too to all the people who joined my swim clinic and the guys who pushed me in our morning rides. I would also like to thank all the people of Saipan and my friends elsewhere who will cheer for me and wish me luck. I will do my best and I will have good race with a big smile on my face at the finish line," Carey said.

PALAU

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PNOC officials.

"I am happy that the organizing committee has assured us that the Games will go ahead as scheduled. I am looking forward to sending a large 'Team Marianas' to next year's Micro Games, and to achieving a great deal of success there," White said.

Besides the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

They will compete in 15 disciplines, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fastpitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

Saipan hosted the 2006 Micronesian Games with Guam topping the overall medal tally with its 51 gold, 27 silver, and 18 bronze. The CNMI had the most medals with 98 after collecting 34 gold medals, 33 silver, and 31 bronze. Palau finished third with its 27-16-21 tally.

MARIANAS

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to publicize our islands' marine sports activities."

The competition will be held from 10am to 5pm daily off the white sand beach of Hyatt Regency Saipan, located in the heart of Saipan's tourist district.

The annual Marianas Windsurfing Cup consists of three categories—the Men's Open, Men's Masters (over 50 years old), and the Women's Open.

Registration will be held beachside on Nov. 6, from 3pm to 6pm. The daily skipper's meeting will also take place beachside on Nov. 7 and 8 from 9am to 10am.

Participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, racing tank top, and awards banquet ticket.

Interested participants may pick up a registration form and fact sheet at the MVA headquarters in Oleai from 8am to 5pm.

For more information about the event, contact Windsurfing Saipan Inc. president Shigeru Tomita at 233-6965 or windspn@mac.com, or send inquiries to Frank Tudela of MVA at ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

RAPHAEL

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lowed by Manuel Joseph Aldan (616), Nikko Gutierrez (580), Troy Verdaguer (578), Donald Hockett (518), and Toby Verdaguer (471).

In the Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament, Raul Dumapit bowled only once and collected 897 pinfalls on Monday to top the October roll-offs.

Dumapit knocked down more than 200 pins in three games (226, 257, and 222) and had a decent performance in Game 3 (192 pinfalls) to beat Percy Omechelang, who posted the second and third best scores in the two-day event. Omechelang drilled 880 pinfalls on Monday and had 876 on Sunday. Participants in the King and Queen roll-off can bowl twice, but only the higher score is counted.

Alex Cacdac bowled once and his 858 pinfalls was good enough for third place. Robert Talavera joined both roll-offs and finished fourth with his 847 pinfalls on Monday. On Sunday, Talavera tallied 845 pinfalls, the sixth best score in the King of the Lanes tournament. Rounding out the Top 5 was Raymond Angeles, who nailed 844 pinfalls.

Seventeen competed for the King of the Lanes roll-off.

The Queen of the Lanes roll-off drew 13 participants with Diane Camacho keeping the tiara after her Sunday's best score of 754 pinfalls was unbeaten in the Monday roll-off.

Camacho had a hot start in the first day of the tournament with her 243 pinfalls in Game 1. She tallied 180, 164, and 167 in the last three games for a four-game average of 188.50 pinfalls.

Ron Cal tried to surpass Camacho's record, but failed as the former had only 714 pinfalls on Monday and settled for second place. Emi Williams's first day score of 696 pinfalls earned her third place.

9th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run

The more than 100 participants in the 9th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run sprint from the starting line at Banzai Cliff during the Saturday morning race.

A group of runners head to the finish line.

Lydia Tan joins the race with her dog.

SIS teacher Rob Epley, right, playfully races against a kid runner.

Long course runner-up Mike Brown, left, has company in short course participant A.J. Hudkins.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel flashes the No. 1 sign, as he heads to the finish line.

Two runners in the kids division collide as they go neck-and-neck to the finish line.

Right, kid runners chat while waiting for the race to start.

Center right, Hunter Jewell is still soaked in rainwater when he made it to the finish line.

Far right, Edward Cho Jr. heads to the finish line to top the short course division.

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PILCOWA cage meeting tonight

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association is calling on all coaches/representatives of participating teams in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League to attend a meeting tonight. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

A-Rod launches Yankees to brink of World Series

Alex Rodriguez has done something remarkable in every game of his charmed October. CC Sabathia is settling for every time he takes the mound. **24**

Palau: 2010 Micro Games still on

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Athletes and officials of Team Palau wave mini flags during the opening ceremony of the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan. SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Palau sports officials assured the CNMI and seven other island-nations that the 2010 Micronesian Games will push through as scheduled despite reports that the host is struggling to find funding for the event.

"As confirmed by the chairman of Micronesian Games Council (Bill Keldermans), the Games will go on as scheduled for next year. Please continue to train and make arrangement for your trip here," Palau National Olympic Committee president Frank Kyota said in an e-mail forwarded to officials of participating island-nations in the Micronesian Games.

Saipan Tribune asked PNOC's reaction about the Pacific Island News Association's report that the 2010 Micronesian may be shelved due to funding problems and received the forwarded e-mail from PNOC secretary general Baklai Temengil as a response.

The report said Palau needs more than $1 million to host the Games with more than half of its coming from government coffers and the private sector footing the remaining tab.

At this time, Palau's Congress has yet to appropriate funds for the quadrennial meet, as the island is facing debt and a limited budget for next year. However, local sports officials are confident funding problems will be resolved in time for the hosting of the Games, which will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

"We are looking forward to seeing you all in Palau. If there would be any misleading information (media or otherwise) please communicate with us directly," Kyota added in the same forwarded e-mail.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, in an e-mail to Saipan Tribune, was pleased to get an assurance from the organizing committee and

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Raphael streaks to 10th monthly plum

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament winner Raphael Zapanta, third left, is joined by October roll-off runners-up during the awards ceremony at the Saipan Bowling Center on Sunday.

Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta's amazing reign in the monthly Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament continued last Sunday, as he took his 10th straight win at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The Saipan Southern High School student bested seven other youth keglers to rule the October roll-off. He tallied 705 pinfalls in four games for an average of 176.25 pinfalls and a 38-pin win over runner-up Zack Cruz (667 pinfalls).

Cruz had the strongest chance to end Zapanta's streak at nine when the former knocked down 182 pins in Game 1 against the latter's 158. However, Zapanta recovered in the last three games to remain perfect this year and move two wins away from sweeping the 2009 season.

Zapanta recorded the best scores in the last three games (168, 197, and 182 pinfalls) to foil Cruz's upset bid. Cruz struggled big time in Game 2 with his 134 pinfalls, before closing out the last two games with 187 and 164 pinfalls. Leeann Yarobwemal finished third with her four-game total of 623 pinfalls, fol-

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Carey Mieko leaves for XTERRA World today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan-based triathlete Mieko Carey will leave for Maui, Hawaii today for this Sunday's 2009 XTERRA World Championship.

"This is it, I am going to XTERRA World this weekend and I am feeling good after joining last Sunday's 50-kilometer race," said Carey, who joined the pre-Hell of Marianas bike race in preparation for the Maui event.

Carey

"It was a good warm-up for Maui, as it tested my fitness. Ranking my readiness for XTERRA World, I would like to say 10 (highest), but so far it's eight. I will be 10 when I get there and see many XTERRA athletes," added Carey, who finished sixth overall among the more than 30 mountain bike riders in the pre-race, timing in at one hour, 39 minutes, and 22 seconds.

The 31-year-old triathlete will be competing in XTERRA World for the fourth time, but this will be her first to join the annual event as a pro. She will race against eight of the Top 10 triathletes in the women's division, including XTERRA Saipan Championship five-time winner Renata Bucher of Switzerland and XTERRA World two-time champion Julie Dibens of United Kingdown

Carey knew she is up for the biggest race of her life, but she

See MIEKO on Page 26

Marianas Windsurfing Cup set for Nov. 7-8

The 8th Annual Marianas Windsurfing Cup will set sail on Nov. 7 and 8 in the waters off Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Made possible through the efforts of Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. and the Marianas Visitors Authority, the competition will pit hometown enthusiasts against competitors from Guam, Japan, and beyond.

This year's event will also be featured in *HI-WIND* magazine of Japan, the most widely read publication for windsurfing and active sports enthusiasts in Japan. The monthly publication also promotes destinations with ideal windsurfing conditions.

"As part of our mandate to promote the Northern Marianas to the traveling public, our sponsorship of this event helps our destination stand out as a premier sports paradise to potential visitors," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "In particular, the large readership audience provided by *HI-WIND* magazine offers an opportunity

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. and the Marianas Visitors Authority will hold the 8th Annual Marianas Windsurfing Cup on Nov. 7 and 8 in the waters off Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.